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INDIA bloc urges CJI intervention, alleges electoral process under threat

Opposition leaders seek judicial intervention, alleging democracy and electoral integrity face unprecedented challenges nationwide

NEW DELHI

Leaders of the INDIA bloc have written to Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, alleging that India's democratic institutions are under severe strain and urging judicial intervention over what they described as partisan conduct by the Election Commission of India (ECI) and manipulation of electoral processes.

The memorandum, dated June 28 and released on Friday, was signed by leaders of 24 Opposition parties, including Independent MP Kapil Sibal. It raised concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and West Bengal and alleged that elections in Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra had been manipulated.

The Opposition claimed the ECI's independence had eroded since 2014, alleging appointments to the Commission favoured the ruling establishment. It also criticised changes to the appointment process for Election Commissioners, arguing they weakened institutional autonomy. The letter accused the Commission of selectively enforcing the Model Code of Conduct and questioned the rationale behind the SIR exercise, saying there was no evidence supporting claims of large-scale illegal inclusion of Bangladeshi voters.

It also alleged arbitrary deletion of voters and excessive deployment of Central Armed Police Forces in West Bengal.

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INDIA
INDIAN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL INCLUSIVE ALLIANCE
8 June, 2026
Constitution Club of India | NEW DELHI

Key demands

The INDIA bloc urged the Supreme Court to intervene to safeguard electoral democracy and sought the immediate suspension of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. It argued that such an exercise should only be undertaken well before an election cycle, allowing thorough door-to-door verification instead of relying primarily on document-based scrutiny.

> **"When all else fails, people still repose their trust in the judiciary. So when the judiciary fails to respond, it indicates a complete breakdown of the Republic,"**
> -In the memorandum.

24 Opposition parties **+1** Independent MP signed the memorandum.

3 States: Delhi, Haryana and Maharashtra polls alleged to be manipulated.

2.4 lakh CAPF personnel deployed in West Bengal, it claimed.

QUICK READ

K'taka drafts Coastal–Malnad tourism policy to boost global tourism

Bengaluru: Karnataka is preparing the Coastal–Malnad Karnataka Tourism Policy 2026 to strengthen cruise, beach and adventure tourism while developing world-class visitor infrastructure, Energy and Tourism Minister K.J. George said during a high-level review meeting. The proposed policy will cover six coastal and Malnad districts, promoting theme-based tourism circuits and community-led initiatives. George directed officials to attract more international cruise liners to Mangaluru and develop curated tourism experiences for cruise passengers. He also stressed the need to develop Blue Flag beaches, improve cleanliness, safety, water sports and tourist amenities at destinations managed by the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation and Jungle Lodges & Resorts, aiming to position Karnataka as a leading global tourism destination.

Uddhav announces 'Ram Raksha' protest over Ayodhya donations row

Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Friday announced a statewide "Ram Raksha" agitation from July 5, demanding accountability from the BJP over the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ayodhya Ram Temple. Thackeray said party workers and supporters would gather at the Hanuman Temple in Dadar on Sunday to recite the Hanuman Stotra and Hanuman Chalisa before launching the protest. Urging people to join the agitation, he alleged that the BJP must answer for the alleged theft and demanded strict punishment for those involved. The alleged donation embezzlement surfaced in June. Eight people linked to the temple's donation collection and counting process have been arrested, and the investigation is ongoing.

CM recalls Mummadi Nirvana Swamiji's guidance, inaugurates memorial bridge

Event
Memorial programme of Mummadi Nirvana Mahaswamiji

Venue
Sri Degula Mutt, Kanakapura

Announcement
Bridge inaugurated and named after the seer

Focus
Service, dharma, education and community welfare

KANAKAPURA

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday paid glowing tributes to the late Dr. Mummadi Nirvana Mahaswamiji, describing him as a guiding light for Bengaluru South district and surrounding regions. Speaking at the seer's memorial programme at Sri Degula Mutt in Kanakapura, he said the occasion was one to celebrate the Swamiji's legacy by carrying forward his ideals of service and spirituality.

The Chief Minister said it was a privilege to inaugurate a bridge that the seer had long wished to see built. The bridge has been named after Mummadi Nirvana Mahaswamiji in recognition of his contribution to society.

Shivakumar recalled his family's long association with the mutt, saying generations had sought blessings and guidance from its seers. He added that he had always believed in rising, governing and serving people through the path of dharma.

Referring to a Sanskrit verse on selfless service, he said trees, rivers and cows exist for the benefit of others, and human life should similarly be dedicated to public welfare. He noted that the late Swamiji had lived by these values throughout his life.

The Chief Minister also revealed that the seer had blessed him before the Assembly elections and wished to see him become Chief Minister. He urged devotees to support mutts through charity and preserve institutions that provide food, education and shelter to society.

> **"This is not a day to mourn but to continue the mission of Mummadi Nirvana Mahaswamiji. His ideals of service and dharma should guide future generations."**
> -DK Shivakumar, CM

Bridge fulfils seer's long-cherished wish

Shivakumar said the newly inaugurated bridge was built in accordance with the late seer's long-standing request. Naming the bridge after Mummadi Nirvana Mahaswamiji, he said it would stand as a lasting tribute to the spiritual leader's contribution to society and continue inspiring people to follow the values of compassion, simplicity and selfless service.

Indian delegation pays tribute to Khamenei in Tehran

New Delhi: An Indian delegation representing the government and political parties paid tribute to Iran's late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran on Friday, attending funeral ceremonies alongside dignitaries from several countries.

The delegation was led by Bihar Governor Lt Gen (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain and Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita. It also included former External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid, Congress leader Pawan Khera, PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, and Anjuman-e-Sharie Shian president Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi Al Safavi.

Khamenei's coffin was placed at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosalla for public homage ahead of his burial in Mashhad on July 9. Iran had also invited BJP, Congress and several Indian religious and political leaders.

Following the ceremony, Mehbooba Mufti said she had conveyed condolences and solidarity with the Iranian people. The Iranian Embassy in India also shared photographs of the delegation paying respects. Khamenei was killed in a joint US-Israeli strike on February 28.

Indian delegation

The delegation comprised Bihar Governor Lt Gen (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain, MoS for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita, Congress leaders Salman Khurshid and Pawan Khera, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, and Aga Syed Hassan Mosavi Al Safavi. Iran had also invited several other Indian political and religious leaders, though their attendance was not confirmed.

Ashoka alleges SIR misuse, seeks action over 'illegal voter enrolment'

Bengaluru: Leader of the Opposition R. Ashoka on Friday alleged that the Congress government was misusing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by allowing Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to distribute forms indiscriminately, claiming it was part of a conspiracy to enrol illegal Bangladeshi migrants as voters in Karnataka.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka said the Election Commission launched the SIR exercise to safeguard the integrity of electoral rolls and national security. However, he alleged that instead of conducting door-to-door verification, BLOs were distributing forms on streets and outside religious institutions.

He claimed such practices were taking place in areas including Mahadevapura and Byatarayanapura and announced that he would write to the Central and State Election Commissions seeking action against the officials concerned.

HD Kumaraswamy alleges SIR irregularities, seeks probe

Ramanagara: Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Friday accused the Congress government of misusing official machinery during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka and demanded that officials from outside the state be appointed to oversee the exercise. Addressing reporters in Ramanagara, Kumaraswamy said his party would submit a complaint to the Election Commission along with video evidence and documents alleging irregularities in the revision process.

He claimed the Congress was illegally adding names to the electoral rolls to strengthen its voter base and criticised the party leadership for speaking about constitutional values while allegedly permitting electoral malpractice.

Kumaraswamy also alleged that Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had the Deputy Commissioner conduct the SIR process at his official residence, calling it the beginning of the alleged irregularities.

PM Modi to visit New Zealand, hold first talks with PM Christopher Luxon

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will make his first official visit to New Zealand next week, where he is scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon following the signing of the landmark India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in April.

Announcing the visit on X, Luxon said he was delighted to host Modi, describing India as one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies. He said the FTA would strengthen bilateral ties by creating jobs, boosting exports and accelerating economic growth for New Zealand.

The Centre is yet to announce the detailed itinerary, though Modi is expected to arrive in Auckland on July 10. The visit follows his recent three-day tour of Seychelles.

The India–New Zealand FTA aims to boost trade in goods and services, encourage investment and expand market access for businesses in both countries. Under the agreement, New Zealand will eliminate tariffs on 95 per cent of its goods, while Indian exports will receive duty-free access to the New Zealand market. Bilateral merchandise trade between the two countries stood at $1.3 billion in 2024-25, while total trade in goods and services reached approximately $2.4 billion in 2024. The visit is expected to further strengthen cooperation in trade, investment, technology and regional connectivity.

CM MEETS SIDDARAMAIAH

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, accompanied by his wife Usha and brother D.K. Suresh, calls on former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at his official residence, Cauvery, on Friday, seeks his blessings after completing one month in office.

HIMALAYAN SHRINE YATRA

Amarnath Yatra begins under multi-layered security amid strict registration norms

SRINAGAR

The 57-day Amarnath Yatra began on Friday with thousands of pilgrims setting out for the 3,800-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas via the Baltal and Pahalgam routes under extensive security arrangements.

The first batch of pilgrims was flagged off from the Baltal and Pahalgam base camps after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had earlier flagged off 4,822 yatris from Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu. Pilgrims travelled in escorted convoys and were welcomed on their arrival in Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration advised devotees to undertake the pilgrimage only on their allotted registration dates, warning that no pilgrim would be permitted to travel before the scheduled date. Authorities also urged pilgrims to complete advance registration as Tatkal slots remain limited.

Security has been significantly strengthened with police, Army and paramilitary forces deploying drones, CCTV surveillance, facial recognition systems, sniper teams, observation posts and GPS-enabled RFID cards to monitor pilgrim movement and ensure safety. Helicopter services remain suspended for the second consecutive year, while all Yatra routes have been declared a no-flying zone.

> **"I pray that this pilgrimage of Lord Shiva's devotees is safe, peaceful, and auspicious in every way."**
> -Narendra Modi, PM

Annual Amarnath Yatra draws thousands of devotees

- **57 days:** Duration of the Amarnath Yatra.
- **4,822:** Pilgrims flagged off from Jammu in the first batch.
- **August 28:** Yatra concludes on Raksha Bandhan.

Enhanced security

Authorities have deployed 670 additional paramilitary companies, 416 CCTV cameras, GPS-enabled RFID tracking, facial recognition systems, drones, UAVs, sniper teams and observation posts to ensure the safe conduct of the pilgrimage. Pilgrims have also been instructed to travel only on their registered dates to facilitate crowd management and security.

Mysuru Traffic Signal Project

MP Yaduveer says it's a waste of ₹8.2 crore public money

MYSURU

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar has strongly criticised the installation of around 50 automatic traffic signals across Mysuru city at a cost of nearly ₹8.2 crore, calling it a glaring example of misuse of public funds.

In a press release here, the MP alleged that the project was implemented without carrying out essential urban traffic planning exercises such as pedestrian movement studies, traffic volume surveys, engineering and technical assessments, feasibility studies, and consultations with citizens.

According to him, the project has failed to achieve its intended objective, as several of the newly installed traffic signals remain non-functional and switched off at many junctions. The present condition of these signals itself reflects the failure of the initiative.

Yaduveer demanded that responsibility be fixed immediately for the alleged wasteful expenditure of taxpayers' money. The authorities must seek an explanation from the officials of the city administration responsible for planning and executing the project.

The automatic traffic signal project was taken up by the Mysuru City Corporation in coordination with traffic authorities as part of efforts to modernise traffic management and improve road safety at busy intersections. Nearly 50 signalised junctions were equipped with automated traffic lights aimed at streamlining vehicular movement, reducing congestion, and enhancing pedestrian safety. The project was also expected to support the city's growing traffic needs by introducing technology-driven traffic regulation.

However, the project has drawn criticism from various quarters after several signals reportedly remained non-operational for extended periods. Critics argue that inadequate planning, poor traffic assessment, and the absence of supporting infrastructure have undermined the effectiveness of the system, leading to questions over whether the substantial public investment has delivered the intended benefits.

The MP's remarks have renewed the debate over accountability and the need for scientific urban planning before undertaking large-scale infrastructure projects in Mysuru

"Karnataka targets Rs 75,200 crore textile exports by 2030"

MYSURU

Karnataka has set an ambitious target of increasing textile and handloom exports from the present Rs 23,961 crore to Rs 75,200 crore by 2030, with the sector expected to play a key role in employment generation and economic growth, Textile Development Commissioner A.B. Basavaraju said on Friday.

Speaking at the district-level internal consultation workshop on "Textiles for the Global Market", organised by the Department of Textiles and Handlooms here, he said after agriculture, the textile and handloom sector has the highest potential for creating employment, particularly for women.

Recalling Mysuru's rich textile heritage, he said the silk weaving factory established in the city in 1912 had laid the foundation for the industry's growth, with entrepreneurs from other States receiving training in Mysuru before setting up silk units in their own regions. The Union Government had assigned export targets to all States to boost the country's textile exports, and Karnataka had been entrusted with achieving exports worth ₹75,200 crore. Reaching this target will require coordinated efforts from all stakeholders.

Basavaraju said the government would address the concerns of manufacturers, exporters and merchants in the textile and handloom sector and extend support to textile entrepreneurs on the lines of the "One District-One Product" initiative. Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Hassan and Mysuru had been identified as champion districts for textile exports and would receive additional encouragement.

Department of Handlooms and Textiles Additional Director C.S. Yogesh said

Mysuru district was contributing significantly to the State's exports and that efforts were under way to achieve a long-term export target of 100 billion US dollars through sustained annual growth. Textile and handloom products from the Mysuru region were being exported to the United States, the Netherlands, Germany, the United Kingdom and France. The export strategy envisages 45 per cent contribution from technical textiles, 30 per cent from garments, 15 per cent from fabrics and 10 per cent from home textiles.

Inaugurating the workshop, Deputy Commissioner G. Lakshmikanth Reddy said the textile sector employed the largest workforce after agriculture and remained one of the country's most labour-intensive industries. The countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam had strengthened their economies through textile exports and assured full support from the district administration to help Mysuru achieve its export goals.

Zilla Panchayat CEO S. Yukesh Kumar, Joint Director of the Department of Handlooms and Textiles (South Division) B.R. Yogeesh, Mysuru Chamber of Commerce and Industry President K.B. Lingaraju, Central Silk Board representative Sridevi and several industry representatives attended the workshop.

Resource persons delivered technical sessions on international trade and institutional mechanisms, Mysuru district's export performance, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), services offered by export promotion councils, and India's foreign trade policy and export procedures.

Ace Mysuru shooter Preeth Appaiah felicitated in Mysuru

MYSURU

The achievements of women are not only an inspiration to other women but also to men, said Lakshmipuram Police Station Circle Inspector Ravishankar.

He was speaking after felicitating Mysuru-based shooter Jammada Preeth Appaiah, who won two gold medals at the 14th Karnataka State Shooting Competition and Championship 2026, organised by the Karnataka State Rifle Association (KSRA) with the support of the Sports Authority of India at the Bengaluru University Shooting Range. The felicitation programme was organised by the KMPK Charitable Trust here on Friday.

The police officer said that as a woman, the determination and aspirations displayed by Jammada Preeth Appayya make her a role model even for men. He recalled the inspiring journey of basketball player Arun Sinha, who scaled Mount Everest within two years despite losing both legs. Likewise, Preeth's achievement is extraordinary. With unwavering determination, she has progressed in the field of shooting, and coming from Kodagu, the land of brave warriors, her accomplishment deserves special appreciation.

C. Narayanagowda, President of the Mysuru Hotel Owners' Association, said Kodagu holds a special place in everyone's heart and that Preeth, who hails from Kodagu but has made Mysuru her home, has brought pride to the city through her achievements. He wished that her sporting spirit would inspire many others.

K.B. Lingaraju, President of the Mysuru Industries Association, said her achievements in shooting are truly remarkable and that it is the responsibility of society to support such talented sportspersons.

Accepting the felicitation, Preeth Appaiah said that being a native of Kodagu, climbing hills and mountains had been a natural part of her childhood. She has undertaken trekking expeditions across Karnataka and later accepted the challenge of climbing the Himalayas. She took up shooting as a hobby, which has now grown into a successful sporting career. She said she now aspires to undergo pistol shooting training and achieve success in that discipline as well.

She recalled that many people had initially discouraged her, questioning whether it was necessary to pursue the sport at her age.

However, she said age should never become a barrier to pursuing one's passion or achieving one's goals, and it was her determination to overcome such criticism that led to her success.

Addressing the gathering, Vikram Iyengar, President of the KMPK Charitable Trust, said sportspersons who excel at the national level require greater support from both the State and Central Governments. He pointed out that participating in international competitions can cost nearly ₹50 lakh, making financial assistance essential. He assured that the Trust would continue to stand by deserving achievers.

Among those present were Basavaraj Basappa, President of KR Bank, compere Ajay Shastri, Gagan Gowda, Srikanth Kashyap, S.N. Rajesh, Chakrapani, Surendra, Rakesh, and others.

Admissions opened

MYSURU

Admissions are now open for the 2026–27 academic year at CIPET, Mysuru for its Diploma Courses. Candidates who have passed ITI or PUC (Science) are eligible to seek admission directly to the Second Year (Third Semester) of the Diploma programme through the Lateral Entry Scheme.

The last date for admission is approaching shortly. Only a limited number of seats are available. Interested candidates may contact 8124489163 / 0821-2516322 for further information.

Vedike seeks CBI probe into Ayodhya Ram temple affairs

MYSURU

The Mysuru Kannada Vedike has urged the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to conduct an impartial probe into the alleged financial irregularities connected with the Ayodhya Ram Temple and sought stringent punishment for those found guilty.

Staging a protest in front of the old DC office here on Friday, they said the allegations of corruption in a temple revered by millions of Hindus have deeply hurt the sentiments of devotees across the world. It recalled the long struggle for the construction of the Ram Temple, during which many kar sevaks and activists made sacrifices, endured police action and even lost their lives.

The Vedike stated that the temple was built with donations from devotees belonging to all sections of society, including labourers, middle-class families, wealthy individuals and Hindus living abroad. It alleged that any misuse of these funds would amount to a betrayal of the faith and trust reposed by devotees.

The organisation questioned why certain office-bearers and trustees, including General Secretary Champat Rai and trustees Anil Mishra and Gopal Rao, had not been arrested if serious irregularities had indeed occurred.

PHEDM-PDP professional development programme held in Mysusu

MYSURU

Various Central Government agencies held Professional Development Programme (PHEDM-PDP) Tier-III Training (Batch-2) in Mysuru for Mysuru Division districts and municipal corporations. This is the second of four planned batches of PHEDM Tier-III training for Karnataka.

The inaugural session of the training programme was graced with the presence of Dr Prakash Puranik, Divisional Joint Director, Mysuru; Prof. Amir Ali Khan, Head, RI Division, NIDM, MHA, GoI (virtually); Dr Saurabh Goel, Joint Director, IDSP, NCDC, MoHFW, GoI and Dr Indira Kabade, SNO, HEOC, Karnataka.

The programme was further enriched by the participation of eminent experts from national institutions, including, including Dr. Pradeep Khasnobis, DDG (DM Cell), MoHFW, GoI (virtually); Prof (Dr) Jugal Kishore, Director Professor, Department of Community Medicine, VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital; Dr Navin Verma, Joint Director (EMR), MoHFW, GoI and Dr. Bimlesh Joshi, State Nodal Officer, Health Emergencies and Disaster Management, Govt. of Uttarakhand Dr Muzaffar Ahmad, Former Member NDMA, MHA, GoI; Dr Sujeet K Singh, PH Expert, Former Director, NCDC, MoHFW, GoI; Dr Rajat Garg, PHS, DGHP, CDC-India.

PHEDM-PDP Tier-III Training is specifically tailored to equip district-level functionaries with the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively. Implementing the concept of Mentors and Mentees, this comprehensive training empowered district-level personnel through technical sessions, quizzes, group activities, case studies and simulation exercises. This holistic approach enabled them to carry out their roles and responsibilities more effectively.

The PHEDM Tier-III Training adopted a blended learning approach, combining technical sessions with practical, simulation-based exercises. The programme covered key aspects of PHEDM, including PHEOC, organizational response, risk communication and community engagement, psychosocial support besides activities by DM Cell, MoHFW and coordinated medical response during emergencies. Participants also engaged in a table-top exercise on flood emergency management, state-specific case scenario discussions (Acute Diarrhoeal Disease outbreak, dengue, heatwave, and cyclone), and interactive quizzes to strengthen practical decision-making and response skills.

35 participants (09 mentors and 26 mentees) from various line departments, including health, disaster management/ revenue, animal husbandry, fire, city corporation, airport health authority and police benefited from the training.

Gujarat Handicrafts Festival 2026 opens in Mysuru

MYSURU

The Gujarat Handicrafts Festival-2026 was inaugurated on Friday evening at the JSS Mysuru Urban Haat in Hebbal Industrial Area, offering visitors a vibrant showcase of Gujarat's rich handicrafts, handloom traditions and cultural heritage.

Inaugurating the festival, A.B. Basavaraju, Commissioner and Director of Textiles Development, Department of Handlooms and Textiles, Government of Karnataka, said that such festivals play a vital role in introducing people to the art, culture and handicraft traditions of different states while promoting national integration and cultural exchange.

Among those present on the occasion were R. Aishwarya, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru; H.R. Rajappa, Managing Director, Karnataka State Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd.; K.S. Tailor, General Manager (Haat) and Joint Commissioner, iNDEXTb, Gujarat; Motilal Krishna Lamani, Joint Director, Department of Tourism, Mysuru; Revanna Swamy, In-charge Director, General Development Division, JSS Mahavidyapeetha; B. Elangovan, Deputy Director, JSS Technical Education Division; and Dr. Snehal Makwana, Manager (Marketing), iNDEXTb, Gujarat.

The 10-day festival will be held from July 3 to July 12, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day. Entry is free for the public.

The festival features 100 stalls displaying and selling a wide range of handicrafts and handloom products from Gujarat, providing visitors with a unique opportunity to experience the state's traditional craftsmanship and artistic excellence under one roof.

A major attraction of the festival will be live cultural performances of Gujarat's famous Raas-Garba and Tippani folk dances, scheduled from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on July 3, 4 and 5.

CLOUDS OF UNCERTAINTY

Failed monsoon casts shadow over grand Mysuru Dasara

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

The festive spirit is beginning to build in the heritage city, but the skies remain stubbornly silent.

For the first time in several years, the southwest monsoon has failed to keep its tryst with Mysuru, casting a shadow over the grandeur of the world-famous Dasara celebrations, scheduled later this year.

Unlike previous years, when incessant rains transformed the city into a lush green paradise and overflowing reservoirs assured a carefree celebration, this year presents a worrying contrast. Mysuru district has recorded nearly 40 per cent rainfall deficit, triggering concerns over drinking water availability, agriculture and the scale of the state's biggest cultural extravaganza.

The parched fields across the district tell a grim story. Kharif crops have withered in many rain-fed areas, leaving farmers staring at heavy losses. Only fields supported by borewells continue to offer some hope, while anxious farmers scan the skies for clouds that refuse to gather.

Every year, the Karnataka government spends between ₹35 crore and ₹40 crore to organise the ten-day Dasara festival. A substantial portion of the budget goes towards Yuva Dasara, which features nationally and internationally acclaimed artistes and has become one of the biggest attractions for young audiences.

With drought tightening its grip, officials are expected to weigh every rupee carefully. While the centuries-old traditions centred around the Mysore Palace are unlikely to be touched, officials may prune non-essential events and reduce expenditure on entertainment programmes if the water situation deteriorates further.

Political observers, however, point out that Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar may still choose to make this year's Dasara memorable. As it will be his maiden Dasara as Chief Minister, the government could still allocate a substantial amount—even if it is below ₹30 crore—to preserve the festival's prestige and public appeal.

Dasara is much more than a cultural celebration. It is the economic lifeline for thousands of families connected with tourism. Hotels, restaurants, transport operators, flower vendors, artisans, street vendors and handicraft sellers depend heavily on the tourist rush during the ten-day festival.

Every year, lakhs of visitors from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra descend on Mysuru to witness the illuminated palace, cultural programmes, wrestling competitions, food festival, flower show and the majestic Jumboo Savari. Foreign tourists also add an international flavour to the celebrations, boosting the local economy.

History offers sobering reminders that Dasara has survived difficult times before.

The most recent disruption came in 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the government to drastically scale down the festivities. The iconic Jamboo Savari was conducted entirely within the Mysore Palace premises under tight restrictions and concluded in less than 45 minutes, with the public watching virtually.

Even earlier, severe drought years had compelled the government to trim celebrations. Though public festivities were curtailed, the centuries-old religious rituals inside the palace continued uninterrupted, preserving the unbroken royal tradition.

As Mysuru waits for the monsoon to revive, the coming weeks will determine whether Dasara will once again unfold in its customary splendour or whether drought will compel another chapter of restraint. Whatever the scale of celebration, one thing remains unchanged—the royal rituals, the devotion to Goddess Chamundeshwari, and the enduring legacy of Mysuru Dasara will continue, rain or shine.

Our crops are drying up. At a time when we are worried about survival, spending lavishly on celebrations should be balanced with the needs of farmers and drinking water.
—Mahadeva, a farmer

Dasara is our peak business season. We hope the government conducts the festival in a grand manner because thousands of livelihoods depend on tourist arrivals.
—Akshay, a hotel owner

Visitors come to Mysuru for its unique royal heritage. Even if some programmes are reduced, the core attractions should remain intact.
—Tourism operator

Dasara is Karnataka's cultural identity. We understand the financial constraints, but cultural programmes should continue to encourage artistes.
—Cultural artist

The priority will be drinking water and essential services. At the same time, the government is committed to preserving the sanctity and traditions of the historic Dasara festival.
—A government officer

The failed monsoon is a reminder that climate variability is becoming more frequent. Water conservation must become part of future Dasara planning.
—Environmentalist

BJP alleges violations in SIR electoral roll revision in Narasimharaja Constituency

MYSURU

Alleging serious violations in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the Narasimharaja Assembly constituency, former Mayor and BJP leader Sandesh Swamy on Friday demanded an independent inquiry and strict action against officials found flouting the Election Commission's guidelines.

Addressing a press conference at MDJA here, Sandesh Swamy claimed that some Booth Level Officers (BLOs) engaged in the SIR exercise had failed to carry out the mandatory door-to-door verification of voters. Instead they were functioning from schools and other locations, where they were receiving documents through intermediaries rather than verifying voters at their residences.

He further alleged that the verification process was being conducted without the presence of Booth Level Agent-2 (BLA-2), contrary to the Election Commission's prescribed procedures, thereby compromising the transparency of the revision exercise.

The BJP possessed photographic and video evidence purportedly showing these irregularities and was prepared to submit the material to the authorities if an official investigation was ordered.

Demanding immediate intervention by the Election Commission, the former mayor urged the authorities to conduct a thorough inquiry into the alleged violations and ensure that BLOs strictly adhere to the prescribed door-to-door verification process. At any cost, the electoral roll revision should be carried out in a fair, transparent and accountable manner to safeguard the credibility of the election process.

Condemning the alleged lapses, the BJP leaders said any deviation from the Election Commission's norms could erode public confidence in the electoral process.

Among those present at the press conference were Narasimharaja Assembly Constituency BJP President Smart Manjunath, General Secretary Padmanabha Manju C., State Minority Morcha President Dr. Anil Thomas, H.G. Giridhar (BLA-1), Su Murali, Velu, T. Ramesh, Karthik and other party leaders.

Power supply interruption tomorrow

MYSURU

Power supply will be interrupted from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm on July 5 in areas coming under the 11 KV Tata Mines-NJY, Kadakola-IP and Ayarahalli-IP feeders emanating from the 220/66/11 KV Kadakola Receiving Station due to 400 KV tower construction works.

The major areas affected by the power interruption include Kadakola, K.M. Hundi, Hosamala, KIADB Road, TVS Auxiliary, Koodanahalli, Kochanahalli, Byathahalli, Sindhuvalli, Chikkakanya and Doddakanya IP areas and surrounding localities, according to a press release by the Executive Engineer of the N.R. Mohalla Division.

Mysuru students win 5 gold medals at Intl Sports Dance contest in Malaysia

MYSURU

Students from Mysuru's I Dance Studio brought laurels to India by winning five gold medals at the 7th International Sports Dance Championship held in Malaysia.

The championship was conducted from June 26 to July 1 at the Royal Chulan Auditorium in Malaysia. Representing India, students from I Dance Studio delivered outstanding performances across various categories.

The gold medal winners are: Lavik Rajashekhar – Under-9 Boys' category; Anvesha Shri M. – Under-12 Classical category ; Hasini G. – Under-12 Girls' Freestyle category ;

Vihana Daddenavar – Under-15 Girls' Hip-Hop Solo category ; Mohith – Under-15 Boys' Hip-Hop Solo category.

The students achieved this remarkable feat under the training and guidance of Prithvi Nayak, Founder and Director of I Dance Studio.

Workshop at KPA focuses on plugging investigation lapses

MYSURU

With an aim to improve the quality of criminal investigations and strengthen the skills of investigating officers, the Karnataka Police Academy (KPA), Mysuru, organised a two-day workshop on "Finding of Lapses, Filling the Gaps and Correctional Measures" in Mysuru.

The workshop was held in accordance with the Karnataka State Police resolution and on the directions of the Additional Director General of Police (Training), under an initiative to conduct such programmes once every two months for skill enhancement of investigating officers.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. M.B. Boralingaiah, Inspector General of Police, Southern Range. In his inaugural address, he stressed the need for scientific, professional and legally sound investigations, and highlighted measures to improve the quality of investigation and secure better convictions.

Director of the Karnataka Police Academy Vishnuvardhan N. outlined the objectives and scope of the workshop, while Deputy Director Chennabasavanna S.L. welcomed the participants. Assistant Director S.N. Sandesh Kumar coordinated the programme.

The workshop featured expert sessions by retired judges, senior prosecution officers, legal experts, forensic specialists and experienced police officers. Among those who addressed the participants were Deputy Director of Prosecutions Rudraya Ganjigatti, retired Public Prosecutor Chinnappa, Senior Legal Officer Shivaprasad Alva, Deputy Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory Dr. Chandrashekhar, Chief Executive Officer of JSS Law School Prof. Suresh, retired DySP Ashokan and retired Forensic Science Officer Ravindra.

The sessions included lectures, group discussions, role plays and interactive exchanges on identifying shortcomings in investigations, bridging procedural gaps and adopting corrective measures to improve investigation standards.

Participants resolved to implement the lessons learnt by discussing the issues within their respective units and taking corrective steps to eliminate investigation lapses and enhance the overall quality of police investigations.

A total of 207 participants, including 57 police officers and 150 Civil Police Sub-Inspector trainees from various districts across Karnataka, attended the workshop.

Centre promises support to tackle man-jumbo conflict in Kodagu: MP Yaduveer

MYSURU

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has assured all possible support to address the growing human-elephant conflict in Kodagu district following a representation submitted by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar.

The assurance came in response to a memorandum submitted by the MP during his meeting with Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, seeking urgent intervention to mitigate the increasing incidents of human-elephant conflict affecting farmers, plantation owners and residents living along the forest fringes of Kodagu district.

According to the communication from the Union Ministry, financial assistance is being extended to state governments under centrally sponsored schemes such as the Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Tiger & Elephant to strengthen wildlife conservation and conflict mitigation measures.

The Ministry also stated that a Regional Action Plan (RAP) is being prepared to address human-elephant conflict across southern India, with Kodagu identified as one of the major conflict zones. The action plan will focus on improving elephant habitats, protecting and managing elephant corridors, establishing early warning systems, strengthening rapid response mechanisms and promoting active participation of local communities.

For Karnataka, the proposed five-year action plan is expected to involve an investment of nearly ₹350 crore. The initiative aims to facilitate the safe movement of elephants, reduce their intrusion into human settlements and agricultural fields, and minimise loss of human lives, crop damage and destruction of property.

The Wildlife Institute of India has also initiated studies on promoting human-elephant coexistence in southern India through satellite telemetry and community-based early warning systems. Based on the institute's recommendations, an advanced early warning mechanism is likely to be implemented in Kodagu.

Welcoming the Centre's response, Yaduveer said a long-term solution to the issue would require coordinated efforts by the Central and State governments, the Forest Department and local communities to ensure the protection of both human lives and wildlife.

The MP reiterated his commitment to securing timely solutions to the problems faced by farmers and residents of Kodagu and said he would continue to pursue the issue with the concerned authorities until effective measures are put in place.

DR G.L. SHEKHAR TAKES CHARGE AS PRESIDENT OF ROTARY IVORY CITY MYSURU

MYSURU

Dr G.L. Shekhar assumed office as the President of Rotary Ivory City Mysuru for the year 2026-27.

At a function held in the city, Rotary Past District Governor (PDG) Dr Nagarjuna formally installed the new President by handing over the charge during the induction ceremony.

Ravishankar attended the event as the chief guest. Rotarians Keshav Kanchan, Rajendra Hubballi and K. Shashidhar were also present and extended their congratulations to the new President.

Speaking on the occasion, the newly installed President said the club would undertake several community service initiatives during 2026-27, with a focus on healthcare, education and community development. Rotary members and other dignitaries attended the programme and conveyed their best wishes.

QUICK READ

Youth Congress names Gowda campaign coordinator

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress (KPYCC) president H.S. Manjunath Gowda has been appointed Bengaluru city coordinator for the Indian National Congress' nationwide 'Chatrom Ki Goonj' campaign. The 40-day campaign, to be held across 28 major cities under the leadership of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) and NSUI, aims to highlight issues affecting students and youth, including examination irregularities, unemployment, recruitment delays and reforms in the education sector. Launched under the guidance of Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi, the campaign will also focus on concerns such as the alleged NEET question paper leak and irregularities in competitive examinations through a series of public outreach programmes.

Three get life term for killing auto driver over Rs 2,000 loan

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A Bengaluru court has sentenced three rowdies to life imprisonment for murdering an autorickshaw driver over an unpaid loan of Rs 2,000. The convicts, Venkatesh, Puneet and Nagaraj of K.P. Agrahara, were found guilty of killing D. Nagaraj in March 2016. Police said the victim had borrowed Rs 2,000 from Venkatesh and was attacked after failing to repay the amount. The trio allegedly intercepted Nagaraj near his Magadi Road residence and hacked him to death with lethal weapons. The victim's father, Dhanashekhar, witnessed the murder and alerted police. Testimonies from him and other eyewitnesses helped the prosecution establish a strong case, leading to the conviction and life sentences for all three accused.

Health officer caught accepting Rs 15,000 bribe

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A District Leprosy Officer attached to the Department of Health and Family Welfare was caught by Lokayukta police while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 15,000 for approving a Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) licence. The accused, Dr. Bhujabali D. Yalagudri (54), was trapped following a complaint by 25-year-old Unani doctor Muffassir Ahmed Muzammil. The complainant alleged that the officer had demanded Rs 30,000 to clear his KPME licence application. Acting on the complaint, Lokayukta police laid a trap and caught the officer while allegedly accepting part of the bribe.

Ultrasound selectively destroys oral cancer cells: IISc study

Research offers hope for safer, targeted oral cancer treatment using low-frequency ultrasound technology effectively.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have found that low-frequency ultrasound can selectively destroy oral cancer cells while largely sparing healthy cells, offering hope for a less invasive treatment for one of India's most common cancers.

Oral cancer remains a major public health concern in India, primarily due to the widespread use of tobacco and arecanut products. Existing treatment options, including surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy, often damage healthy tissue alongside cancer cells, leading to significant side effects.

In the study, IISc researchers collaborated with clinicians from M.S. Ramaiah Medical College and Hospitals to test low-frequency ultrasound on oral tumour samples collected directly from patients. By using patient-derived samples instead of conventional laboratory-grown cancer cell lines, the researchers were able to better reflect the diversity of oral cancers seen among Indian patients.

The team found that oral cancer cells were highly vulnerable to the moderate mechanical forces generated by ultrasound. According to the researchers, this is because the cancer cells contain lower levels of Tropomyosin 2.1, a protein that enables healthy cells to sense and withstand mechanical stress. As a result, ultrasound exposure triggered selective death of cancer cells while leaving healthy oral epithelial cells largely unaffected.

Using a three-dimensional co-culture model that closely resembles the tumour environment, the researchers also observed that ultrasound disrupted the dense protective barrier surrounding tumour cells. Such barriers often prevent medicines and immune cells from reaching tumours, reducing the effectiveness of existing therapies.

"The novelty of this study lies in showing how ultrasound mechanostimulation can selectively target oral cancer cells by exploiting their mechanical weakness," said Ajay Tijore, Assistant Professor in IISc's Department of Bioengineering and the study's corresponding author.

Rashmita Luha, a PhD student at IISc and the study's first author, said the consistency of the results across tumour samples from patients at different stages of cancer was particularly encouraging.

As ultrasound is already widely used in clinical practice and is non-invasive, the researchers believe the findings could pave the way for safer and more targeted cancer therapies. The team now plans to evaluate the approach in advanced preclinical models and investigate whether combining ultrasound with existing treatments can improve drug delivery and treatment outcomes.

Teen dies in hydraulic lift accident; hardware store owners booked

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A 15-year-old boy died in a tragic hydraulic lift accident at a hardware store on Tannery Road, with police booking the shop owners for allegedly employing the minor in hazardous work in violation of child labour laws.

The deceased, Salman Khan, had recently moved to Bengaluru with his family from Mumbai. His father, Ameen Allabaksha Syed, a painter, told police that Salman had completed Class 9 and was awaiting admission to Class 10 as his school transfer records were yet to arrive from Mumbai.

Hoping to keep his son engaged during the vacation, Syed approached the owners of Nellai Hardware Stores, Noushad Ali, Mohammed Meenar and M. Shafiulla, who had agreed to teach the boy computer-related work.

However, according to the complaint, Salman was instead assigned manual labour and asked to transport heavy 20-litre paint cans between floors using a hydraulic material lift. The father alleged that his son had informed him about the work, and he had planned to withdraw him from the shop once the school admission process was completed.

The accident occurred on June 28. Around 12.40 p.m., Shafiulla allegedly telephoned Syed, asking him to rush to the store after informing him that Salman had been injured.

When Syed reached the premises, he found his son dead with his head trapped inside the hydraulic lift mechanism. According to preliminary information, Salman was moving paint cans from the ground floor to the first floor when his hair allegedly became entangled in the machinery. He reportedly lost balance, and his head was crushed by the lift mechanism.

The grieving father has accused the store owners of illegally employing a minor, compelling him to perform hazardous work, failing to provide basic safety measures and allowing him to operate an allegedly defective hydraulic lift.

Police have registered a case against the three owners under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act and Section 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (causing death by negligence). A senior police officer said notices have been served on the accused, and further investigation is underway to determine the circumstances leading to the fatal accident and whether additional violations were committed.

Karnataka to e-auction 579 liquor licences from July-end

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The Karnataka Excise Department will conduct an e-auction of 579 liquor licences, including 483 CL-2A retail liquor shop licences and 96 CL-9A bar licences, in the last week of July as part of efforts to improve transparency and boost government revenue.

The licences, which have remained unutilised, will be allotted through an online bidding process for a period of five excise years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31.

According to the department, Bengaluru Urban has the highest base price of Rs 1.5 crore per licence. Belagavi, Ballari, Mysuru, Dharwad and Hubballi follow with a base price of around Rs 1.1 crore.

The move stems from the 2025-26 State Budget, which proposed auctioning unused liquor licences electronically to enhance resource mobilisation for the state exchequer.

The government has also amended Rule 5 of the Karnataka Excise (Sale of Indian and Foreign Liquors) Rules, 1968, introducing reservations in the allotment of CL-2A and CL-9A licences.

Under the revised framework, 5.2 per cent of licences each will be reserved for Scheduled Caste-A and Scheduled Caste-B applicants, 4.5 per cent for Scheduled Caste-C, and 3 per cent for Scheduled Tribe applicants.

Excise officials said the reservation policy is intended to extend self-employment opportunities to marginalised communities, similar to reservation provisions in education and government employment.

Officials noted that several states, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have adopted comparable models based on local requirements. A previous attempt to introduce reservations in liquor licence allotment in Karnataka had faced legal challenges.

CREDAI seeks higher FAR, uniform zoning norms across Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Developers urge the State to raise Floor Area Ratio limits, introduce uniform regulations and streamline approvals to boost housing supply and reduce project delays.

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) Bengaluru has urged the Karnataka government to significantly increase the proposed Floor Area Ratio (FAR) under the draft Uniform Zonal Regulations, arguing that the current limits do not reflect Bengaluru's expanding infrastructure capacity and could restrict housing supply while pushing up property prices.

In a representation submitted to the Urban Development Department and the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), the developers' body sought higher FAR limits for both residential and commercial developments.

CREDAI has proposed increasing the FAR from the draft limit of 2.25 to 3 for plots abutting roads measuring 18 to 24 metres in width, and from 2.5 to 4 for sites located on roads wider than 24 metres. It has also sought similar revisions for public, semi-public, transport and utility land-use categories.

According to the association, many of Bengaluru's peripheral growth corridors already possess wider roads, improved connectivity and planned civic infrastructure, making them suitable for higher-density development.

The developers' body said higher FAR would enable more efficient use of scarce urban land, promote planned vertical growth and help reduce urban sprawl. It argued that increased density in well-serviced areas would allow more people to live closer to workplaces, educational institutions and healthcare facilities, reducing travel time and easing pressure on transport networks.

CREDAI also urged the government to adopt a uniform FAR framework across Karnataka instead of having varying regulations in different urban centres. It said such a policy would encourage investment not only in Bengaluru but also in emerging cities such as Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi and Udupi.

The association further recommended introducing a single-window clearance mechanism for real estate projects to reduce procedural delays, improve regulatory certainty and accelerate project execution.

It also highlighted delays in obtaining fire safety clearances despite a government order issued on September 10, 2025, delegating approval powers for buildings below 21 metres to district-level fire officials.

CREDAI alleged that the decentralised system has not been implemented effectively, resulting in continued delays in project approvals.

CREDAI's key demands

CREDAI has sought higher FAR limits under the draft regulations, a uniform zoning framework across Karnataka, a single-window approval system for real estate projects, and strict implementation of the government order decentralising fire safety No Objection Certificate approvals to district-level officials to speed up project clearances and improve the ease of doing business.

NHAI identifies 20 highway parking black spots in Karnataka

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has identified 20 critical locations across Karnataka where persistent unauthorised parking on national highways has emerged as a major safety concern.

The locations were flagged after repeated instances of illegal parking, roadside encroachments and unregulated activities that obstruct traffic movement and increase the risk of accidents. The exercise is part of a nationwide initiative in which NHAI identified 595 such black spots.

Among the 20 locations in Karnataka, four are in Bengaluru, three in Udupi district, two each in Chikkaballapura and Chamarajanagar districts, while the remaining are spread across other parts of the state.

According to NHAI, unauthorised parking in non-designated areas disrupts the smooth flow of traffic and poses serious risks to motorists. To facilitate prompt action, the authority has mapped the exact latitude and longitude of each identified location.

An NHAI official said the authority does not have the power to impose penalties or enforce traffic regulations but is working closely with the state government, district administrations and enforcement agencies to remove illegally parked vehicles from national highways.

To strengthen coordination, NHAI has urged the state government to establish district-level highway safety task forces and appoint nodal officers to monitor compliance and ensure timely enforcement.

The authority has also instructed its field offices to conduct immediate audits of Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) infrastructure. This includes checking the functioning of traffic surveillance cameras, video incident detection systems, speed detection equipment, variable message signboards and emergency call boxes.

Rodent menace drives up vehicle repair bills across Bengaluru

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru's growing rodent population is emerging as an unexpected and expensive problem for motorists, with rats increasingly damaging vehicle wiring, fuel pipes and other critical components, forcing owners to spend thousands of rupees on repairs.

Residents across several neighbourhoods say the problem has worsened in recent months, particularly in areas with open drains, overflowing garbage and poor waste management. Cars and two-wheelers parked on roadsides have become easy targets for rodents, prompting repeated visits to workshops.

S.N. Mishra, a legal adviser living in Indiranagar, said two of his cars suffered extensive damage after rats chewed through electrical wiring while the vehicles were parked on the street.

"The repair costs are expected to exceed Rs 80,000, and both vehicles are still at the workshop. We have tried sprays, metal guards and other preventive measures, but nothing has worked. Despite repeated complaints, the civic authorities have not addressed the problem," he said.

M. Uma, a resident of Jeevan Bima Nagar, said her vehicle had been damaged twice in recent months, while similar incidents affected her neighbour's scooter and car. "The rodents have also dug up our gardens and destroyed plants and flower pots. Authorities must take immediate steps to control the infestation," she said.

Alexy F., a resident of Hosa Road, said he frequently sees rats emerging from roadside drains at night. Since his apartment lacks adequate parking, he parks his motorcycle on the street and places large stones around it in an attempt to stop rodents from climbing onto the vehicle. Automobile workshops say such cases have become routine. Sudarshan Sahu, customer care manager at a car service centre, said the workshop receives at least four vehicles daily with rat-related damage.

WALKERS IN DISTRESS

Jalahalli Cross leaves pedestrians stranded amid poor infrastructure

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Jalahalli Cross is one of Bengaluru's busiest transport hubs, carrying thousands of vehicles every hour and connecting commuters to the Metro, BMTC services and inter-city buses. Yet, for pedestrians, the junction has become a daily obstacle course marked by missing footpaths, unsafe bus stops and neglected civic infrastructure.

On the Tumakuru Road stretch opposite Jalahalli Metro station, one side of the road has no footpath. The roadside has effectively turned into an informal bus bay where BMTC, KSRTC and private buses stop or park, forcing commuters to navigate through buses and moving traffic. The uneven surface, strewn with gravel and stones, makes walking especially difficult for senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities. Ironically, the designated bus shelter nearby remains largely unused, surrounded by garbage. Passengers often have no option but to step onto the carriageway to board buses.

Conditions are equally poor along the Peenya Ring Road, where four bus shelters have become unusable due to accumulated waste, damaged footpaths and misuse as public urinals. A makeshift autorickshaw stand further blocks the limited pedestrian space available.

Barely 100 metres away, however, the contrast is striking. A stretch upgraded under the B-SMILE project features smooth white-topped roads and wide, continuous footpaths, highlighting how improved pedestrian infrastructure can transform public spaces when executed consistently.

Towards Dasarahalli, one side of Tumakuru Road has no footpath at all, while the other is encroached upon by autorickshaws, parked two-wheelers and shopfront extensions. Vegetable market waste lines sections of the roadside, reducing already limited walking space.

Subroto Mukherjee Road presents another hazard, with damaged drain covers, missing concrete slabs and exposed drains posing risks to pedestrians.

A long-awaited underpass sanctioned under the Chief Minister Nagarothana scheme in 2017-18 remains stalled despite partial land acquisition. Eight years later, construction has yet to begin.

The delay also reflects an administrative challenge. Jalahalli Cross falls under the jurisdictions of both Bengaluru North and Bengaluru West city corporations, resulting in fragmented responsibility and slow implementation of civic projects.

With thousands of commuters using the junction every day, residents say basic infrastructure such as continuous footpaths, dedicated bus bays, proper waste management and coordinated civic action can no longer be delayed. Until then, one of Bengaluru's busiest intersections will continue to prioritise vehicles while leaving pedestrians to fend for themselves.

QUICK READ

Ramachandra Nayak takes charge at Devanahalli BESCOM

Devanahalli

L. Ramachandra Nayak assumed charge as new Assistant Executive Engineer at Devanahalli BESCOM Sub-Division office. He said staff and public should cooperate for better service delivery. He added that the office will work to address public problems promptly. Staff members and others attended the programme. He thanked everyone for their wishes on his charge assumption. The new officer assured improved response to electricity complaints and strengthened coordination with local residents in Devanahalli subdivision. He emphasized transparency, safety and timely maintenance works in the jurisdiction under BESCOM.

Subratdas takes charge as Kaiga Site Director

Karwar

Subratdas assumed charge as 11th Site Director Kaiga Site on July 1. He is from Puri district of Odisha. He graduated Mechanical Engineering from Regional Engineering College Roorkee and started career at NPCIL Kaiga in 1989. He handled commissioning activities of nuclear power plant successfully. Under his guidance Kaiga units 1 to 4 and Rajasthan units 7 and 8 performed well. He recently assumed charge after holding senior positions across country. Officials said he will continue strengthening operations at Kaiga site nuclear plant in Karnataka state India with focus on safety performance standards improvement.

MCC erects barricades ahead of monsoon hazards

Mangaluru

Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC) has taken preventive measures by installing temporary road barricades in vulnerable hilly stretches of the city as part of its monsoon safety preparedness plan. The initiative aims to reduce the risk of accidents in areas prone to landslides, soil erosion, and surface instability during heavy rainfall. According to officials from the MCC engineering division, the barricades have been placed at several high-risk points, including the Kudkorigudda stretch, where steep slopes run close to busy bypass roads. These locations have been identified as sensitive zones where continuous rainfall can weaken the soil structure and increase the chances of slipping or sudden ground movement.

Caste census report will be implemented soon says Yathindra

Yathindra said cabinet discussed 23 agenda items including new public service department SIR governance and administrative decisions recently

DAVANAGERE

The caste census report, which Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had strongly supported as his long-cherished initiative, has been accepted and will be implemented by the government after discussion in the cabinet, said Minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah while speaking to reporters in Davanagere.

He said the government had already committed in its election manifesto to release and implement the caste census report, and that promise would now be fulfilled. He added that although Siddaramaiah had earlier expressed a desire to continue as Chief Minister for a longer period, he has now stepped down from the position due to certain circumstances, but his vision for social justice remains a priority for the government.

Yathindra said the cabinet had discussed 23 agenda items in its recent meeting, including the creation of a new public service department and several administrative decisions. He also mentioned that discussions were held on issues related to SIR and other governance matters. He said the government would move forward with decisions taken collectively in the cabinet.

On the issue of electricity privatization, the minister clearly stated that the state government is firmly opposed to any move toward privatization. He said both the Chief Minister and Energy Minister have already clarified that electricity services will remain under public control and will not be handed over to private players under any circumstances.

Responding to criticism from opposition leaders, Yathindra said opposition parties naturally raise objections, but many of their allegations are politically motivated. He defended the government's stand on electoral roll revision, alleging that voter rights of many citizens were affected and calling for stronger safeguards by the Election Commission.

He also highlighted challenges in housing projects and said he was holding meetings to address delays and issues in implementation. He added that nearly Rs 18,000 crore under the 15th Finance Commission is still pending and has been requested for release to strengthen local body development works.

Speaking on governance timelines, he said local body elections and Greater Bengaluru Authority elections would be conducted soon. On cabinet expansion, he said the decision rests with the party high command and is expected within two weeks.

He concluded that welfare guarantees will continue for eligible beneficiaries, based on need and population, not caste alone, ensuring support reaches the truly deserving sections of society.

High Court upholds probe in Eshwarappa case

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has upheld a special court order directing an investigation by the Lokayukta police into allegations of disproportionate assets against former minister K.S. Eshwarappa and his family members, and dismissed the petition challenging the proceedings.

A division bench headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna heard the petition filed by K.S. Eshwarappa, his son K.E. Kantesh, and daughter-in-law Shalini, who had sought to quash the special court order that directed a detailed probe into the alleged embezzlement of assets beyond known sources of income.

The court observed that the complaint in the case was filed several years ago and that the legal provisions applicable at the time were under the Criminal Procedure Code. It noted that there was no procedural violation in ordering an investigation under the then-existing law, and therefore found no grounds to interfere with the special court's direction.During the hearing, the Lokayukta counsel assured the court that the accused would not be arrested if they cooperated with the investigation. Accepting this submission, the bench directed that no coercive action should be taken as long as the petitioners cooperate with the inquiry.The petitioners' counsel argued that under the current BNSS framework, the procedure for handling private complaints required prior examination of the accused, and claimed that the investigation order violated established legal principles. They also contended that the complaint lacked specific details regarding the alleged illegal accumulation of wealth and should therefore be dismissed.

Satish Jarkiholi orders urgent lake filling to prevent water crisis

HAVERI

Public Works Minister and district in-charge Satish Jarkiholi has directed officials to start filling lakes immediately and take strong precautionary measures to handle the expected shortage of rain and drinking water in the coming months. He said that although the district has received good rainfall and crops are currently in good condition, a major water crisis may arise after two months if proper planning is not done.

Chairing a review meeting on disaster management at the District Collector's office, the Minister said the state is facing a rare situation of drought-like conditions after nearly a century. He added that the government and district administration are fully prepared to respond, and the Chief Minister has sent him to assess the situation and report key issues for immediate action.

He instructed irrigation and minor irrigation officials to begin lake-filling works using water from the Varada river without delay. He said storing water in lakes will help secure drinking water and protect livestock in the coming months. He also suggested that each Gram Panchayat should be provided with water tankers in a phased manner to handle emergency needs in rural areas.

The Minister asked officials to identify suitable locations for new barrages and prepare a detailed list for further planning. He also emphasized spreading awareness among farmers about integrated farming, soil health, and reducing excessive use of fertilizers like urea, which can damage soil fertility over time.Jarkiholi warned officials to avoid errors in crop insurance cases, especially mismatches that delay compensation or create irregular payments. He also directed the Agriculture Department to ensure sufficient fertilizer stocks are maintained in advance to avoid shortages if rainfall increases in the coming weeks.Officials were also asked to promote awareness about the VB-G Ramji employment and livelihood mission and ensure villagers understand its benefits. The Minister reviewed the Bedti–Varada river linking project and instructed departments to submit progress details.Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vijayamahantesh Danammanavara said the district has received uneven rainfall, affecting lake levels and water availability. Out of 2,182 lakes, many are partially filled, while a few remain full. Officials reported ongoing efforts to supply drinking water through borewells, tanker arrangements, and emergency projects, along with crop insurance registration and fodder availability measures to support farmers and livestock owners during the difficult season.

At disaster review meeting, Minister said drought-like conditions after a century; government and district administration prepared, CM sent him to assess and report issues

Minister urged VB-G Ramji employment, Gram Panchayat plans, job cards, and crop insurance awareness for farmers protection

Minister Patil directs urgent action for rain shortage preparedness

KOPPAL

Officials must prepare immediately to manage possible rain shortage during the ongoing monsoon season and ensure drinking water supply and employment opportunities for people, said Medical Education and Skill Development Minister and district in-charge Dr. Sharanaprakash R. Patil while chairing the District Disaster Management Committee meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office hall.

He said that although the monsoon has begun, rainfall has been below expectations, affecting agricultural activities and creating concerns about drinking water availability in the coming days. He instructed departments to prepare action plans in advance so that citizens do not face hardship.

The Minister stressed the need to generate employment under the VB-G Ramji scheme if agricultural work reduces due to insufficient rainfall. He directed officials to prepare Gram Panchayat-wise work plans and ensure job cards are distributed to eligible beneficiaries without delay. He also asked the Agriculture Department to create awareness so that all eligible farmers register for crop insurance to protect themselves from potential losses.

Dr. Patil instructed officials to prioritize drinking water supply using government funds, including renting private borewells, supplying water through tankers, and drilling new borewells wherever necessary. He said water management must be handled carefully to avoid a crisis situation.

He also directed officials to ensure availability of seeds and fertilizers as per farmer demand and warned against artificial scarcity. He said strict action must be taken against shops selling fake seeds, substandard fertilizers, or charging excess prices. He added that inspections must be conducted regularly to prevent violations and ensure transparency in agricultural input distribution.The Minister said the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls must be completed properly before the July 29 deadline. He instructed officials to ensure enumeration forms are collected and verified, and to identify migrated and deceased voters. He also asked for helplines at gram panchayat level to address public complaints.

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Suresh B. Itnal said the district administration is fully prepared for disaster management. He informed that compensation has been provided for loss of life, livestock deaths, and damaged houses, and assured that there is no shortage of funds for drinking water supply.

Officials also reported that rainfall is 31 percent below normal, with only 47 percent sowing completed, while fertilizer stock remains sufficient in the district to support ongoing agricultural needs during the challenging season.

High Court upholds probe in Eshwarappa case

BENGALURU

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During the hearing, the Lokayukta counsel assured the court that the accused would not be arrested if they cooperated with the investigation. Accepting this submission, the bench directed that no coercive action should be taken as long as the petitioners cooperate with the inquiry.

The petitioners' counsel argued that under the current BNSS framework, the procedure for handling private complaints required prior examination of the accused, and claimed that the investigation order violated established legal principles. They also contended that the complaint lacked specific details regarding the alleged illegal accumulation of wealth and should therefore be dismissed.

However, the Lokayukta's counsel opposed the plea, stating that the special court had acted within its jurisdiction and that the investigation order was legally valid. After hearing both sides, the High Court dismissed the petition, allowing the investigation to proceed.The case originates from allegations that after K.S. Eshwarappa became a minister in 2006, his family allegedly acquired significant movable and immovable assets, including investments in educational institutions and businesses.

BASIC AMENITIES PRIORITY

MLA Pappi launches clean drinking water units work

CHITRADURGA

MLA K C Veerendra Pappi performed bhoomi puja for clean drinking water units in Godabanahal Chennayyanatti and Chikkapur Golarahati villages in Chitradurga taluk. He said development of the area is main objective and basic infrastructure will be given priority in villages. He added that drinking water electricity roads and sanitation works are being taken up on priority basis. The MLA said instructions have been given to officials to ensure no village faces drinking water shortage. Several CC road borewell electricity and sewerage works are already underway in constituency villages for development. He said pending works list will be prepared after consultation with officials and bhoomi puja will continue. He stressed that development during power defines leadership and DMF funds will be used for mining affected areas.

During village visits residents raised issues and MLA directed officials to clean drains and improve sanitation immediately. He also asked gram panchayat to take preventive measures against diseases during rainy season in villages. Officials and leaders including Shivanna Santosh Shivamurthy Jaishila and others were present at the programme event. MLA said that providing clean drinking water is a fundamental responsibility and government is working with commitment. He said village level development will be monitored regularly to ensure quality and timely completion of works. People appreciated initiation of water projects and expressed hope that all villages will soon get clean water supply. Officials assured that the projects will be completed within stipulated time and villagers will benefit from improved infrastructure leading to better health and living standards across all selected villages under the constituency development programme successfully soon for public welfare and growth.

Satyappa reacts to ram temple donation theft

HUNSUR

Satyappa of Satya MAS Foundation has spoken about reports of theft of donation money linked to Ram temple funds. He said it is very sad and the country feels ashamed about such claims.

There are claims that temple staff in Hunsur Ram temple misused hundi donations and lived a luxurious life. It is said that the amount involved may be more than five hundred crores according to reports.

He added that many people gave bricks, rangoli decorations and prayers for building the Ram temple with devotion. Earlier Rath Yatra and national support under leaders like Advani and Vajpayee showed deep public faith.

Now the alleged theft has caused anger across the country and protests demanding action against those responsible. The Ayodhya Bar Association has reportedly decided to fine lawyers representing the accused five lakh rupees. People are asking for accountability from the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister regarding this issue.

QUICK READ

Deputy Chief Minister to chair disaster management meeting

Chitradurga

A meeting on revenue and disaster management issues will be held on July 04 at 3 pm in the Zilla Panchayat Hall, Chitradurga. The meeting will focus on reviewing important matters related to revenue administration and disaster preparedness across the district. The meeting will be chaired by Deputy Chief Minister and Revenue Minister G. Parameshwar. Officials from the concerned departments are expected to attend and discuss key issues requiring immediate attention. Additional Deputy Commissioner B.T. Kumaraswamy said the meeting aims to strengthen coordination and improve disaster management efforts for the benefit of the district and local communities.

Public consultation meeting on Pragati Path project

Karwar

The ADB team will visit the district on July 6 to conduct public consultation meetings on Pragati Path road works. The project covers Salkode Road in Honnavar taluk via Kolpe, Janasale, Anneramanakeri and Kondakuli Cross Road up to Kodani Panchayat Road via Beranki. Meetings will be held at 10.30 am in Salnoda Gram Panchayat Hall and at 2 pm in Kodani Gram Panchayat Hall. Officials have urged residents to participate in large numbers and support the consultation process for smooth implementation of the project. Executive engineer appealed for cooperation.

Officials must follow EC guidelines strictly says DC

Kolar

Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.R. Ravi has issued strict instructions to Booth Level Officers to carry out house-to-house visits for the ongoing Special Intensive Revision work in the district. He directed that all officials must strictly follow Election Commission guidelines during the census process.The Deputy Commissioner said it is mandatory for BLOs to visit every household, distribute prescribed census forms, and collect signatures from concerned voters. He emphasized that no shortcuts should be taken in the exercise, as it is directly linked to the accuracy of the electoral roll. Officials noted that some BLOs were reportedly collecting information in public places or in groups instead of visiting individual homes. Taking serious note of this, the Deputy Commissioner warned that such practices must not be repeated.

Nikhil raises fresh questions over voter revision process

JD(S) leader alleged officials influenced in elections, citing irregularities, and urged Ramanagara residents to protect fairness

RAMANAGARA

JD(S) youth leader Nikhil Kumaraswamy has alleged serious irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll in Ramanagara and demanded an independent inquiry into the process. Addressing reporters, he claimed that voter list revision was not being carried out according to the prescribed rules and urged authorities to ensure complete transparency.

Nikhil alleged that officials had misled Booth Level Agent-2 representatives during a recent meeting and claimed that the SIR exercise was being conducted improperly in several areas, including Tipu Nagar, Yarab Nagar, and Mehboob Nagar. He said party workers had collected video evidence after visiting these localities and alleged that an atmosphere of fear had been created during the revision process.

Questioning the role of district officials, Nikhil said the voter revision should be conducted with representatives of all major political parties present during the distribution of forms. He claimed the guidelines requiring door-to-door visits were not being followed properly. He also criticised the District Commissioner, alleging that established procedures were being ignored. He further questioned the officer's absence during the controversy and demanded accountability from the administration.

The JD(S) leader also accused some local political leaders of influencing Booth Level Officers and alleged that pressure was being placed on officials. Referring to previous elections, he claimed that electoral irregularities had affected the democratic process. He urged residents of Ramanagara to remain alert and protect the fairness of future elections.

Nikhil called on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to visit Karnataka and personally review the voter revision exercise. He said he was prepared to take the issue to New Delhi and hold a press conference in English to explain the allegations before national leaders. He also criticised the state government over its development projects and questioned its priorities.

Demanding immediate action, Nikhil urged the State Election Commission to withdraw the recent SIR process conducted at a local venue and order a fresh exercise in 35 sensitive polling stations. He said all video evidence would be submitted to the State Election Commission and the Chief Electoral Officer.

He added that stronger monitoring would help maintain public confidence in the electoral process.

Magadi MLA expresses hope over ministerial berth prospects

Balakrishna said voters want him as minister, supports D.K. Shivakumar as CM, and Delhi leaders assured his request is under consideration

MAGADI

Magadi MLA H.C. Balakrishna said that the decision to appoint him as a minister rests entirely with the party high command, while expressing confidence that a suitable decision will be taken soon. He spoke to reporters after inspecting various development works in Dodda Somanahalli village of the taluk.

Balakrishna said the people of the constituency had elected him as their representative and had also expressed their wish to see him become a minister. He recalled that he had always wanted D.K. Shivakumar to become the Chief Minister and believed the aspirations of party workers and voters should also be respected. He added that he recently visited Delhi and discussed the matter with national party leaders, who assured him that his request was being considered.

Speaking about missing out on a ministerial position despite winning five consecutive Assembly elections, Balakrishna admitted he felt disappointed. At the same time, he said he was proud of the trust shown by the people. He described five successive victories as a rare achievement in today's political climate and said it reflected the strong support he had received from voters over the years.

The MLA said whether he becomes a minister or not depends on destiny, but he would continue working sincerely for the welfare of the constituency. He promised to repay the faith placed in him by ensuring development and addressing the needs of the people.

Responding to questions about the proposed protest march over the Bidadi Town Shift issue, Balakrishna said local leaders had decided not to organise the march for now. He explained that the advantages and disadvantages of the project would be studied carefully before taking any further decision.

He also said compensation was being distributed to farmers whose lands had already been notified for acquisition. Payments to farmers in the remaining villages would begin after the final notification process is completed. According to him, nearly 70 to 80 percent of the affected people are supporting the government's efforts. He declined to respond to opposition criticism, saying an appropriate reply would be given at the right time.

Dr Praveen Bagewadi said voter registration is a right and responsibility, aiming to include all eligible citizens

KOLAR HOSTS MASSIVE VOTER AWARENESS CYCLE RALLY

KOLAR

large cycle rally was organised in Kolar on Friday to create public awareness about the Special Comprehensive Revision of the Voters List-2026. The programme was jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and the District SVEEP Committee to encourage people to participate actively in the democratic process.

The awareness rally began from the IB at Bangarpet Circle in Kolar city. District Collector Dr. M. R. Ravi, Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Dr. Praveen P. Bagewadi and other senior officials flagged off the event. Officers, staff members and representatives from different government departments joined the rally with great enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ravi said democracy becomes stronger when every eligible citizen takes part in elections. He urged all qualified voters to register their names, make necessary corrections and verify their details in the voters list. He added that every citizen should use this opportunity and become a responsible voter.

Dr. Praveen P. Bagewadi said registering in the voters list is both a fundamental right and an important responsibility. He explained that the main aim of the campaign is to spread awareness and ensure every eligible citizen is included in the electoral roll.

Officials from district and taluk departments, along with municipal officers and staff, participated in the cycle rally. Throughout the event, participants educated the public about voter registration, corrections and verification procedures.

The rally delivered a strong message on the importance of voting and encouraged citizens to take part in strengthening democracy through active electoral participation across the district.

Hubballi honours ISSF junior shooting silver medalist

HUBBALLI

A simple felicitation was held in Hubballi by Horakeri Mastara Shikshan Pratishthan, Ranichannamma Environmental Service Committee and Basava Environmental Protection Committee to honour shooter Aishwarya Ravichandra Balehosura, who represented India at the ISSF World Junior Shooting Championship in Germany and won a silver medal with an excellent performance.

Activist Puneeth Kerehalli arrested over clerics allegation

HASSAN

Pro-Hindu activist Puneeth Kerehalli was arrested by the Kumaraswamy Layout Police on Friday following a complaint accusing him of insulting Muslim clerics. Police said the action was taken after a complaint filed by Abdul Razak, and further investigation into the case is continuing.

According to police, officers visited Kerehalli village in Alur taluk, where Puneeth Kerehalli was staying, and took him into custody. During the arrest, he allegedly criticised the state government and claimed that he had been unfairly targeted. Authorities have not announced further details regarding the investigation or any additional charges.

Speaking during the arrest, Puneeth Kerehalli claimed that his life was under threat and said he had earlier filed a complaint against Abdul Razak. He questioned why action had been taken only against him and alleged that the Congress government had misused its power. He also claimed that a conspiracy had been planned against him.

The arrest drew emotional scenes at his residence as his mother broke down in tears while police escorted him away.

Videos capturing the incident quickly spread across social media, attracting widespread public attention and reactions.

Students urged to aim for high achievements

GAJENDRAGAD

Annadaneshwar PU College in Gajendragad held the Virat-2026 programme to welcome first year PUC students and start social activities on Friday. Chairman Veeraiah V Vastra said students must develop a strong desire for achievement and build regular study habits to succeed in life. He told students not to give up after making decisions and to keep working continuously and follow teachers lessons with understanding and focus.

Basavanthappa Hosalli Principal of Government Degree College said students should set clear goals and work hard with dedication honesty and discipline.

New children's film inspires values through meaningful stories

CHITRADURGA

The muhurat ceremony of the Kannada children's film "Apratima" was held at the Madakari Mahaganapathi Temple near Rangaiah Gate on Friday, marking the official beginning of a project aimed at promoting moral values and social awareness among children. Magadi MLA K.C. Veerendra Pappi launched the film by giving the ceremonial clap and wished the entire team success.

Speaking at the event, the MLA said that films carrying positive messages are essential in today's society. He noted that children learn many values through visual storytelling and said quality films can help develop discipline, responsibility, kindness, and respect for others. He expressed hope that "Apratima" would become a meaningful addition to Kannada cinema and provide young artists with an opportunity to display their talent.

Former Chairman of the Chitradurga Urban Development Authority R.K. Sardar said children's films play an important role in encouraging creativity and building self-confidence. He urged people to support meaningful cinema that helps shape responsible citizens and creates a positive influence on society.

Film director Devaratna Manju said the movie is being made at a time when many children are spending increasing amounts of time on mobile phones and social media. He explained that the story focuses on important values such as education, humanity, discipline, environmental protection, respect for parents, and the importance of government schools. Along with entertainment, the film aims to inspire children to become responsible members of society.

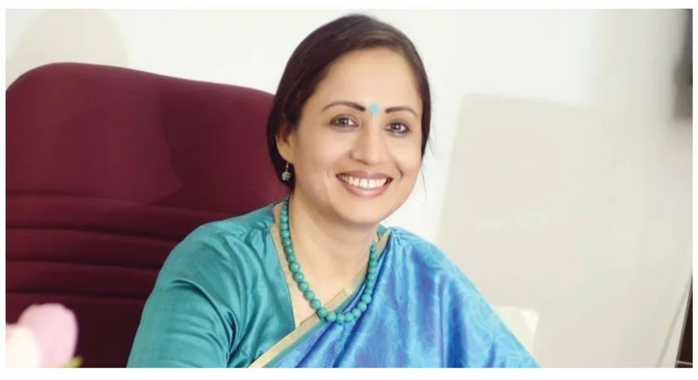
District President of the Karnataka State Education Council, Malatesh Urs, said both education and cinema are powerful tools for social change. He stressed the need for more films that encourage moral values and help children develop strong personalities.

Several leaders, members of the film team, child artists, and well-wishers attended the ceremony and extended their best wishes.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

Water and power saving secures future generations life: Shalini Rajneesh

BANGALORE



Conserving water and electricity is essential for a safe and sustainable future, Chief Secretary to the Government Dr. Shalini Rajneesh said, stressing that responsible use of natural resources must become a daily habit for every citizen. She said saving water directly supports saving electricity, as a large share of power is used in pumping, treating, and supplying water.

She explained that although nearly 70 percent of the earth is covered with water, only about 2 percent is suitable for drinking. With rising population, pollution, and careless usage, freshwater scarcity is becoming a global concern. She added that climate changes such as El Nino are disturbing rainfall patterns, leading to floods in some regions and drought in others, which is also affecting agriculture and food production.

Dr. Rajneesh said water is essential for life, farming, industries, and ecosystems. Rapid urban growth and climate pressure are increasing demand, making conservation unavoidable. She urged people to value every drop and adopt simple practices such as fixing leaks immediately, turning off taps while not in use, and using buckets instead of showers wherever possible.

She also highlighted rainwater harvesting as an important method for homes, schools, offices, and public buildings. Reusing treated water for gardening and cleaning, adopting drip irrigation in agriculture, and protecting lakes, rivers, and groundwater sources were strongly recommended. She said planting trees also helps improve groundwater levels and ecological balance.

On electricity conservation, she said most power is generated using coal, which increases pollution and global warming. Saving electricity reduces environmental damage, lowers costs, and improves energy security. She advised switching off unused appliances, using LED bulbs, maintaining air conditioners at moderate temperatures, and encouraging solar energy use.

She suggested awareness programmes in schools, colleges, and offices, including pledges, street plays, posters, and conservation campaigns. Regular energy audits and community participation were also encouraged.

Dr. Rajneesh added that hydropower depends on water availability, so water shortage also reduces electricity production. She appealed to citizens to adopt responsible habits and said collective efforts today will ensure prosperity, sustainability, and a better quality of life for future generations through conscious conservation and shared responsibility.

QUICK READ

BJP bandh hits normal life in Jamshedpur

Jamshedpur

A widespread impact was witnessed across Jamshedpur and adjoining areas on Friday in response to a bandh call by the BJP following the murder of Karni Sena youth Himanshu Singh. Major markets remained closed, public transport services were disrupted, and most private educational institutions declared a precautionary holiday. The district administration imposed prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) in six police station jurisdictions and stepped up security arrangements. Shops and commercial establishments in key business hubs, including Sakchi, Bistupur, Jugsalai, Mango and Golmuri, downed shutters as shutdown supporters took to the streets from early morning.

Centre clears appointment of 3 judges to AP HC

New Delhi

The Centre on Friday cleared the appointment of three judicial officers as Additional Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, following the recommendation made by the Supreme Court Collegium. Announcing the decision in a post on X, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said that, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India and in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the President has appointed Sunitha Gandham, Alapati Giridhar, and Purushottam Kumar Chintalapudi as Additional Judges of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

Kerala HC rejects plea for CBI probe

Kochi

The Kerala High Court on Friday declined to order a CBI probe into the alleged attack on Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials during the agency's search at the rented residence of former Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and of his daughter in the state capital city on May 27, observing that the state police investigation was progressing satisfactorily. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Soumen Sen and Justice Syam Kumar disposed of the Public Interest Litigation after taking note of a detailed status report filed by the state government, which outlined the progress made in the investigation.

Punjab Congress Infighting Deepens Amid Organizational Revamp Before Elections

Internal divisions intensified in Punjab Congress as senior leaders voiced dissatisfaction following the party's organizational restructuring before elections

NEW DELHI

Political tensions within the Punjab Congress escalated on Friday as senior party leader and Member of Parliament Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa met Union Home Minister Amit Shah amid growing dissent over the party's recent organizational overhaul ahead of the state Assembly elections. The meeting fueled speculation about internal differences within the Congress, although Randhawa clarified that the discussion had been scheduled well in advance and focused solely on the deteriorating law and order situation in Punjab.

Addressing the media after the meeting, Randhawa stated that he had previously written to the Prime Minister on June 4, 2026, expressing concerns about the worsening security situation in the state and had also sent a copy of the letter to the Union Home Minister. During Friday's meeting, he submitted a detailed memorandum highlighting the rise in gangster-related crimes, particularly in Gurdaspur and other border districts, urging the central government to take appropriate action.

Responding to questions regarding a meeting convened by former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Randhawa acknowledged that the current situation reflected dissatisfaction within the party.

He remarked that despite numerous discussions regarding the organizational restructuring, the fact that many leaders remained unhappy was unfortunate and indicated unresolved concerns within the state unit.

The organizational revamp has triggered visible divisions among senior Congress leaders, with several influential figures reportedly expressing disappointment over appointments to key party positions. The internal disagreements have emerged at a crucial time as the Congress prepares its strategy for the upcoming Punjab Assembly elections.

Adding to the political drama, Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu criticized Punjab Congress President Amarinder Singh Raja Warring by drawing a humorous comparison with a famous scene from the classic film Sholay. Referring to the movie's comic jailor character, Bittu suggested that Raja Warring had been left politically isolated as many of his close associates had shifted their support toward Charanjit Singh Channi. In a lighthearted remark, he advised Warring to stop resisting the changing political dynamics and join Channi along with other party colleagues.

The meeting called by Channi witnessed the participation of several prominent Congress leaders, including former Deputy Chief Minister O.P. Soni, former ministers Tript Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhbinder Singh Sarkaria, Gurpreet Singh Kangar, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, and Gurkirat Singh Kotli. Former Member of Parliament Mohammad Sadiq was also among those present, reflecting Channi's continued influence within the party. The unrest intensified further after senior Congress Member of Parliament Manish Tewari publicly expressed disappointment over being excluded from newly constituted party committees and leadership appointments.

Have been assured of justice at the earliest : Bharat Tiwari's family on Chirag Paswan's visit

BHOJPUR

After Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Friday met the family members of student and local activist Bharat Tiwari, who was killed in police action, the latter's family members said that the LJP (Ram Vilas) chief has assured them that the perpetrators will be punished at the earliest and that the world will be a witness to the justice.Following his meeting with the family earlier in the day, Paswan condemned the circumstances surrounding his death, saying the role of administrative officers in the incident was completely unacceptable in a civilised society.Reacting to the Union Minister's visit, Bharat Tiwari's father, Kashinath Tiwari, said: I spoke to him (Paswan). The conversation went very well. He has assured that within two to three days, all the killers who have committed the crime will be punished.

CBI Files Thirteenth Chargesheet in Greater Noida Housing Fraud

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed its thirteenth chargesheet in an ongoing investigation into an alleged large-scale housing fraud involving homebuyers in Greater Noida. The latest chargesheet names Rudra Buildwell Projects Private Limited and one of its directors, accusing them of cheating homebuyers and investors through fraudulent practices associated with a residential housing project.

According to the investigating agency, the builder company and its director were allegedly involved in a criminal conspiracy to mislead prospective buyers by making false promises and deceptive representations regarding the housing project. The CBI stated that the accused allegedly persuaded innocent homebuyers and investors to invest substantial amounts of money by offering misleading assurances about project completion, timely delivery, and other commitments.

The Central Bureau of Investigation intensified its housing fraud probe by filing another chargesheet against a real estate developer

The agency alleged that the accused dishonestly obtained financial benefits while causing significant monetary losses to homebuyers who had invested their savings with the expectation of receiving residential properties.

Investigators said they gathered substantial documentary and material evidence during the course of the probe, which formed the basis for filing the latest chargesheet before the competent court.

The chargesheet has been submitted under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code relating to criminal conspiracy, cheating, and criminal breach of trust. The court will now examine the evidence presented by the investigating agency before proceeding with further legal action against the accused.

The case forms part of a much larger investigation being conducted by the CBI into alleged irregularities in the real estate sector. Acting on directions issued by the Supreme Court, the agency is currently investigating 36 additional cases involving several builder companies and unidentified officials of banks and financial institutions.

These cases relate to allegations that funds collected from homebuyers for residential projects were diverted or misused, resulting in financial hardship for thousands of affected purchasers.

Delhi Police Bust Interstate Gambling Syndicate, Twenty-One Arrested

NEW DELHI

The Anti Auto Theft Squad (AATS) of the Delhi Police has uncovered an alleged interstate gambling syndicate operating in the Shahdara district of the national capital, leading to the arrest of 21 people during a carefully planned raid. Police officials said the operation was carried out following specific intelligence inputs and forms part of an intensified campaign against organized gambling activities in the district.

According to an official statement, the operation was conducted under the leadership of Inspector Prateek Saxena, who heads the Anti Auto Theft Squad in Shahdara. The team worked under the close supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police Mohinder Singh and the overall guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of Police for Shahdara District. Officers were deployed in plain clothes to gather local intelligence and monitor suspected illegal gambling operations.

Investigators said that on July 1, a member of the police team received credible information that a large-scale gambling session was underway at a house located in West Nathu Colony. Acting swiftly, the police organized a raid on the premises and entered the second floor of the building, where they allegedly found 21 individuals participating in illegal gambling activities.Among those arrested were 16 men and five women..

Rainfall picks up across Gujarat, no monsoon-related complaints reported

AHMEDABAD

Gujarat witnessed a fresh spell of monsoon activity, improving rainfall figures across regions and boosting reservoir levels, while Ahmedabad remained fully operational despite overnight showers, with no rain-related complaints reported by the city's Monsoon Main Control Room.

According to the State Emergency Operation Centre, had received 76.92 mm of rainfall as of 6 a.m. on Friday, equivalent to 8.46 per cent of the state's average seasonal rainfall. Saurashtra has received the highest proportion of its normal monsoon rainfall at 10.45 per cent, followed by South Gujarat at 10.39 per cent.

East-Central Gujarat has received 7.58 per cent, North Gujarat with 4.10 per cent, while Kutch has received only 0.40 per cent of its seasonal average so far.

The state data showed that one taluka has received between 500 mm and 1,000 mm of rainfall this season, 16 talukas have recorded 250-500 mm, 37 talukas have received 126-250 mm, and 68 talukas have recorded 51-125 mm.

In Ahmedabad, the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) said the city had recorded an average seasonal rainfall of 15.81 mm, or 0.62 inches, up to 10 a.m. on Friday. Between 4 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. on Friday, the city received an average of 12.54 mm of rainfall.

The North West Zone recorded the highest cumulative seasonal rainfall at 37.92 mm, followed by the South West Zone with 21.72 mm and the West Zone with 19.27 mm. The Central Zone had recorded the lowest seasonal total at 4.27 mm.

During two hours between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Thursday, Thaltej Ward in the North West Zone received 15.50 mm of rainfall, while the Science City area recorded 15.00 mm and Bodakdev received 11.00 mm.

The civic body said all roads, streets and underpasses in Ahmedabad were fully functional as of 10 a.m. The water level at Vasna Barrage stood at 133.00 feet, with an inflow of 600 cusecs into the canal, while all barrage gates remained closed.

J&K CRIME BRANCH FILES CHARGE SHEET IN FAKE JOBS, FORGED VISAS CASE

SRINAGAR

J&K Crime Branch said on Friday that it has filed a charge sheet against an educational consultancy operator in a fake jobs and forged visas fraud case involving lakhs of rupees.

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Kashmir, Crime Branch, J&K, has filed a charge sheet in FIR No. 67/2021 under Sections 420, 468 and 471 RPC against Fayaz Ahmad Zargar, son of Mohd. Shafi Zarger, resident of Qutub Din Pora, Aali Kadal, Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Srinagar, for offences of cheating and forgery, a Crime Branch statement said.

The case was registered on the basis of a written complaint alleging that the accused, who was operating M/s HR Choice International Education Consultancy, Karanagar, Srinagar, lured the complainant with false promises of securing a job in Bahrain.

During the investigation, it was revealed that the accused had similarly duped the complainant and several other persons, collected lakhs of rupees from them, and provided forged job offer letters, visas, air tickets and other fabricated documents.

To lend credibility to the scheme, the victims were made to undergo online interviews, medical examinations, and execute agreements.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA UNDERTAKING)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ–576229 ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

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ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಾರಾಹಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಡಿ, Heightening/Modification of Towers of 220KV Varahi Kemar Line-3 along with 110KV line between location No.112-114 as per the request of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited (KNNL) for the construction of Overhead aqueduct structure near Shriooru village, coming under TLM section Hiriyadka of TL & SS Division, Karkala, Udupi District ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು Super Grade Electrical ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ:

1. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು Www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
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3. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.2.26ಲಕ್ಷ
4. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿ:02/07/2026
5. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ (queries if any) ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ:06/07/2026ರ ಸಮಯ 5.00ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ/ಇ–ಮೈಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
6. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿ:06/07/2026ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವುದು.
7. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:10/07/2026ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 5.00ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
8. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:13/07/2026ರ ಸಮಯ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00ಘಂಟೆ
9. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ–2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು. 10. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ,
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಸಿದ್ಧಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

OM BIRLA STATEMENT

Finding solutions should be the goal of ideal Assembly: Om Birla

KOLKATA

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday stated that, in addition to engaging in meaningful discussions and recognising issues, the primary objective of any ideal state Assembly should be to devise solutions for prevailing problems.

The Lok Sabha Speaker said this at the inauguration of a two-day orientation programme for the newly elected Legislators in the West Bengal Assembly.

Common people have lots of hopes and expectations from a legislator. The role of an MLA, existing laws and the hopes and conditions of the people are all linked to the development of the state. So, an ideal Assembly is the place where solutions are sought, discussions are held, and problems are addressed. All old discussions and debates should be read and studied thoroughly, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, he also advised the newly elected legislators to concentrate on information-based discussions during various sessions of the state Assembly, besides engaging in the never-ending learning process.

You should discuss issues and topics based on the information. You should lead your team and the nation through that. You have to learn and learn more. You should have the desire to learn. The effort to learn should always continue.

You should learn to do something new for the benefit of the people of the Assembly constituency you represent, the Lok Sabha Speaker said.

He also advised the newly elected MLAs to focus on digital learning to keep themselves updated on national and international developments.

This is the digital world and an era of artificial intelligence. Now everything is available in one place. If you wish, you can also study the budget proposals of other countries. Stay in the Assembly as long as you can. As long as you stay in the Assembly, you will learn something new. Your interest will increase.

QUICK READ

CBI conducts searches in Odisha, Rajasthan in digital arrest scam

New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted searches at seven locations across Odisha and Rajasthan and arrested three accused, as part of its investigation into a Rs 2.07-crore 'digital arrest' scam in which a retired public servant was allegedly coerced into transferring funds under the threat of fabricated legal action, a statement said on Friday. According to the agency statement, the searches were conducted on June 30 in connection with the case, which is being investigated pursuant to directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The CBI had registered the case on March 25 after allegations surfaced that cyber fraudsters posing as law enforcement and regulatory officials had intimidated a retired government employee into transferring Rs 2.07 crore through a series of transactions.

Racket of sale of food with manipulated expiry date busted in Delhi

New Delhi

In a major breakthrough, Delhi Police has busted a highly organised and systematic racket allegedly involved in manipulation of expiry dates and repackaging of expired international branded food products for sale and arrested seven accused, officials said on Friday. Food items worth more than Rs. 20 lakh have been seized by investigators. A police statement said that the operation was conducted by a team of Okhla Industrial Area Police Station, led by Inspector Anil Malik, under the supervision of ACP Anil Sharma, and under the overall guidance of DCP Dr Hemant Tiwari, who directed sustained, intelligence-driven action to dismantle the entire criminal network.

PM Modi to Launch Massive Rajasthan Infrastructure Development Projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil major infrastructure projects worth over one lakh crore rupees during his Rajasthan visit

NEW DELHI

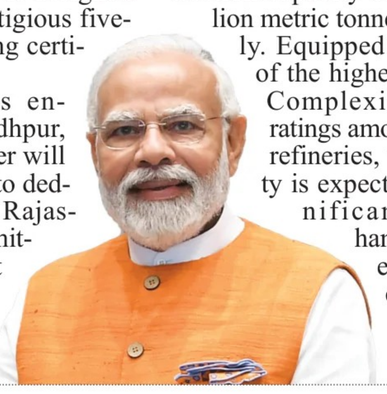
Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Rajasthan on Saturday to inaugurate, dedicate, and lay the foundation stone for development projects valued at approximately Rs 1.06 lakh crore. The projects span multiple sectors, including petrochemicals, urban transport, railways, roads, aviation, renewable energy, and power transmission, reflecting the government's focus on strengthening infrastructure and accelerating economic growth across the state.

The Prime Minister's visit will begin in Jodhpur, where he will inaugurate the newly constructed terminal building at Jodhpur Airport and officially launch the Modified UDAN Scheme. The revamped regional connectivity programme has been allocated Rs 28,840 crore over the next decade with the objective of expanding air connectivity to underserved regions across the country.

Under the modified scheme, the government plans to develop 100 aerodromes using existing unserved airstrips, establish 200 helipads, and continue providing viability gap funding to airlines operating on regional routes. The initiative also seeks to promote the use of indigenous aircraft and helicopters, including platforms developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, in line with the government's vision of enhancing domestic manufacturing and self-reliance in the aviation sector.

The new terminal at Jodhpur Airport has been developed at a cost of Rs 480 crore and covers more than 23,000 square metres. Designed to accommodate up to 20 lakh passengers annually, the facility combines modern passenger amenities with architectural elements inspired by Rajasthan's cultural heritage. The terminal also incorporates environmentally sustainable features and is designed to achieve a prestigious five-star green building certification.

Following his engagements in Jodhpur, the Prime Minister will travel to Balotra to dedicate the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited complex at Pachpadra to the nation. Developed as a joint venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Government of Rajasthan, the integrated refinery-cum-petrochemical project has been established with an investment exceeding Rs 79,450 crore.



The refinery has a processing capacity of 9 million metric tonnes per annum and an integrated petrochemical production capacity of 2.4 million metric tonnes annually. Equipped with one of the highest Nelson Complexity Index ratings among Indian refineries, the facility is expected to significantly enhance India's energy security, reduce dependence on imported petrochemical products, encourage downstream industrial development, and generate substantial employment opportunities across the region.

The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone for the second phase of the Jaipur Metro Rail Project, estimated to cost more than Rs 13,000 crore.

The proposed 41-kilometre north-south corridor will include 36 stations connecting major residential, industrial, commercial, and institutional areas, including Jaipur Airport, Sitapura Industrial Area, Vishwakarma Industrial Area, Tonk Road, and SMS Hospital.

The project is expected to improve urban mobility and reduce traffic congestion in the state capital.

RSS Flags Bid To Defame, Divide Hindus; Hopes Justice Will Be Done

NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Friday cautioned the Hindu community to exercise restraint and not get misled by anti-national forces using the Ram Temple donation theft to defame the religion and society.

RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, in a statement, called for unity among Hindus in this difficult moment to thwart the conspiracies of anti-Hindu forces aiming to exploit this unfortunate incident in Ayodhya.

He said, The unfortunate incident of theft of funds deposited in donation boxes at the Shri Ram Lalla Temple in Ayodhya has hurt the sentiments and faith of the entire community and Ram devotees, and we are all deeply saddened by this incident.

At the request of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a special investigation team and initiated the legal process based on its recommendations, he said.

Jharkhand Minister Returns Entire Security Cover Over Official Dispute

RANCHI

Jharkhand Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore surrendered his security cover after police declined his request for an additional vehicle

Jharkhand Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore has returned his entire official security cover in a rare move expressing dissatisfaction with the functioning of the state police department. The Congress leader, who serves in the Jharkhand government, took the decision after his request for an additional vehicle to facilitate the movement of his security personnel was reportedly not approved.

As part of his decision, the Minister returned all 16 security personnel assigned to his protection along with the three government vehicles that had been deployed for security duties. The development has drawn considerable political attention, with the Minister subsequently attending official engagements in Ranchi without any police escort or security convoy.

According to official sources, Kishore had recently written to the Director General of Police requesting one more vehicle for his security team. He explained that although 16 personnel had been assigned for his protection, the existing vehicles were insufficient to accommodate them comfortably. As a result, security staff were allegedly forced to travel in overcrowded conditions, making the existing arrangement both impractical and ineffective.

Sources familiar with the matter said that no decision was taken on the Minister's request. Instead, the police headquarters reportedly communicated with his personal secretary regarding the withdrawal of one of the vehicles already allotted for his security arrangement. The reported response appears to have prompted the Minister to return the entire security deployment.

In his communication to the police authorities, Kishore described the prevailing situation as embarrassing and stated that the existing arrangement did not serve its intended purpose. He maintained that an effective security system should be practical, well-organized, and capable of ensuring adequate protection without unnecessary inconvenience to security personnel.

On Friday, the Minister attended a public function at Khelgaon Stadium before visiting the Project Bhawan Secretariat to carry out official duties. During both engagements, he was seen travelling without any official security convoy or police escort, underscoring his decision to relinquish the security cover assigned to him.

Kishore also questioned the efficiency of deploying three large government vehicles solely for transporting 16 security personnel. He argued that such an arrangement was neither economical nor operationally sound from the perspective of resource utilization and security management.

Delhi Chief Minister Promotes Green Living on Plastic-Free Day

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday appealed to residents of the national capital to adopt environmentally friendly habits by eliminating the use of single-use plastic bags and embracing sustainable alternatives. Her message coincided with the observance of International Plastic Bag Free Day, a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the harmful environmental impact of plastic waste and encouraging the use of reusable bags.

In a message shared on social media, the Chief Minister urged citizens to make environmental responsibility a permanent part of their daily lives rather than limiting their efforts to a single commemorative day. She encouraged people to carry cloth or jute bags while shopping and avoid using disposable plastic bags that contribute to pollution and environmental degradation.

The Chief Minister said that every small step taken by individuals can collectively help build a cleaner, greener, and plastic-free Delhi. She emphasized that responsible consumer habits play a vital role in protecting natural resources, reducing waste generation, and improving the quality of the urban environment.

Rajasthan Bans Sale, Use of Bupivacaine Injection Used In Caesarean Deliveries

JAIPUR

The Rajasthan Drug Control Department has imposed a statewide ban on the sale and use of a specific batch of Bupivacaine injection following reports of serious adverse reactions among patients at a hospital in Hyderabad.

Bupivacaine is widely used to administer spinal anaesthesia during various surgical procedures, including Caesarean deliveries. Instructions have been issued to immediately stop the use of this injection until the investigation is completed. This decision has been taken on the advice of anesthesiologists, said Dr Deepak Maheshwari, Principal, SMS Medical College.

The precautionary action comes after 16 patients reportedly developed adverse reactions after receiving the injection in Hyderabad.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Written offers are invited by the Trustees of **"CRY- Child Rights and You"** having PTR No. F-5208 (M) at correspondence address being Anand Estate, 189/A, Sane Guruji Marg, Mumbai - 400011 in sealed envelope for sale of the Trust's property on "as is where is basis" being "Premises Bearing No.3, Stephens Road Cross, Fraser Town, Bangalore-560005. Property comprises land admeasuring 2969 Sq. Ft.

The offers should be delivered at Anand Estate, 189/A, Sane Guruji Marg, Mumbai - 400011. Time is the essence of the contract and offers received after 30 days shall not be entertained.

The reserve price of the above referred Trust property is kept as Rs. 3,80,03,200/- (Rupees Three Crores Eighty Lakh Three Thousand Two Hundred only). The last date for receiving offers by the Trust is 4th August, 2026.

Person/s interested in making a bid shall along with their offer letter, enclose a Demand Draft or a Pay Order only, in favor of **"CRY- Child Rights and You"**, equivalent to 10% of the offer/bid amount. The said amount will be refunded without interest in case the offer is not accepted. The sale of the said property will be subject to the sanction by the Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

Offers will be opened at 3.30 pm on 8th August, 2026 at the above-mentioned address. The offerors may remain present. Conditional offers or incomplete offers shall not be considered and the Trust reserves the right to accept or reject the offers without assigning any reason(s).

Sd/-
Date: 4th August, 2026 **(Trustees)**

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division,
SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-1,AE-4/2026-27/09 Date: 02.07.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for **providing painting, polishing, bathrooms renovations, installation of UPVC windows, repair to shutters, providing flooring mats, providing work stations, curtain rods, repairs to windows, aluminium partition, annual maintenance of water purifiers installed at HE kitchen, reception, garage, periodic inspection of gas line & chimney service, deep cleaning of floors, sofa, chairs and other development works, total of 4 works at various notified places.** Approx. value of work: **Min. Rs. 2.26 lakhs, Max. Rs. 7.99 lakhs.** EMD: **Min. Rs. 2,900/-, Max. Rs. 20,000/-.** Cost of Document: **As in e-portal.** Period of Completion for each work: **from 2 Months to 12 Months (including rainy season).** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **09.07.2026 up to 4.30 PM.** Date of opening the Tender: as per e-procurement guidelines. Further information, brief details of the works, Indent No.s, approx. amount, EMD and mode of payment, Reservation, etc. can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/1458/KSMCA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ (ಉ.ಕ)
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08419-261165 Email apmcylpr@gmail.com
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ: ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ/ಯ/306/2026-27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29-06-2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ, ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಹಣವನ್ನು ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತೊಡಗಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು **Public Sector Banks Including Regional Rural Banks (RRB) and Private Sector Scheduled Commercial Banks** ಗಳಿಂದ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಬಡ್ಡಿ ದರವನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿ, ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18-07-2026**ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Auction Notice Number: APMC/2026-27/AUCTION116

ಸಹಿ/- (ಅರವಿಂದ ಪಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ) ಸಹಿ/- (ಎಂ. ಆರ್. ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ)
ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ (ಉ.ಕ) ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ (ಉ.ಕ)
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/245/26-27 dt. 03.07.2026

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Fax No.08472/260776, Phone: 08472/ 278675, Email Id: itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com
No: KMP/TS-01/EE/SFC/2026-27 Date: 02-07-2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. /2026-27

1) Name of Work: Silt settlement tank for WTP backwash water & Catch drain at Sharanbasaweshwara Appa Lake in Kalaburagi City under AMRUT 2.0, 2) Head of Account AMRUT 2.0, 3) Estimate Cost : **Rs. 123.34 Lakhs,** 4) Amount put Tender: **Rs. 98,40,888.00** 5) Eligibility of Contractor: KPWD Class-III And Above, 6) Pre Bid Meeting Date and Time: **13.07.2026 11:00am,** 7) Last Date for Bid Submission: **20.07.2026 Up to 4:30pm,** 8) Tender opening Date: **21.07.2026 Up to 4:35pm**, 9) Tender Financial Bid opening Date: **22.07.2026 Up to 11.30am**, 10) Cost of Tender Schedule: Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal. EMD : Rs. 1,96,900.00, 11) Contact Address & Mobile No: Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. Mobile No : 8095986929, 12) Web Site: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Note :- All subsequent corrigendum/amendment shall be published only on website and not in press. Hence, Tenderers are advised to always be in touch with our said website until the Tender is finally opened.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/287/KSMC&A/2026-27

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India A Government of India Undertaking
Union Bank of India
NR Road Branch
Email: ubin0803928@unionbankofindia.bank.in

VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE

The public is invited to purchase the vehicles listed below for auction by **Union Bank of India, NR Road Branch** Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower (s) and guarantor (s) that the below described movable property/ies hypothecated to the secured creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken in exercise of the power conferred under the hypothecation agreement by **Union Bank of India, NR Road Branch Bengaluru,** table 1 will be sold on **"as is where is", "as is what is", and "whatever there is"** basis on **18.07.2026 at N R Road, Bangalore at 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM** Auction held be Branch.

Table 1

Sl. No.	Borrower Name/ Account No	Vehicle Model & Year, Registration No	Reserve price & EMD amount	Auction date and Time
1.	Mr. Dedaniya Jitendrabhai Chandulal 039216520000025	TATA ALTRO2 X2 1.5 RTQB56 PH2 (2023) KA05 NJ. 0489	Rs. 6,48,000/- Rs. 64,800/-	18.07.2026 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM

The earnest money deposit stated above shall be DD deposited on or before **17.07.2026 5.00 PM. Contact No. 9324503921, 9376985200, E-mail: ubin0803928@unionbankofindia.bank.in.**

Date : 02.07.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Union Bank of India**

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501
Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372
No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH//2026-27/846 Date: 03.07.2026

DATES POST PONED TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites work tender under Standard tender document under KMERC head of account grant for 1 work (Indent No: 22353/call2) for the Estimated Cost Total Rs:826.40 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division,Chitradurga as post poned dates below:-

PRESENT DATES

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date : 07.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 08.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 09.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 10.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.02

POSTPONED DATES

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date : 13.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date : 15.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date : 16.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date : 17.07.2026ರ : ಸಮಯ 16.02

Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.200:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**
P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division,
2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru – 560018.
Contact No: 9480688278/9481033253, Email: bbmpcmp@gmail.com
No. EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/08/2026-27 Date: 03-07-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
SHORT TERM TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) invites **Request for Proposal** from interested Firms / Organization those **who have done similar type of work** for Preparation of Detailed Project Report, Consultant for Supervision, Project Management and Quality control for the project for the below works invited through KPPP system by the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, Zone-2, BCCC invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru Central City Corporation / KPWD / Electrical /CPWD / Railways /MES/National Highway or any state Govt. Organization for the construction of works detailed in the Table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Asphalting & other necessary works on BGS Flyover (Est Cost. Rs.950.00 Lakhs). **DPR COST :** Rs. 9.50 Lakhs **EMD Amount :** Rs. 23750/-
2	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Completion works Viz., Electrification, Water and Sanitary Supply Lift and Other facilities for Rayapuram Referral Hospital Ward No. 154 Rayapuram (Package 7) (Est Cost. Rs.1500.00 Lakhs). **DPR COST :** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs **EMD Amount :** Rs. 37500/-

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** of The Government of Karnataka from dt: **06-07-2026 (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **16:00 hours** on dt: **15-07-2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the KPP Portal guidelines. **(3)** Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of the Executive Engineer (Chamarajpet Division), BCCC, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018 on dt: **13-07-2026 at 11.00 hours. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on the website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer (Chamarajpet Division) on dt: **16-07-2026 at 16:30 hours** or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet-Division
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

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QUICK READ

Human rights catastrophe unfolding in Sudan's al-Obeid, says UN's Turk

GENEVA

The United Nations human rights chief on Friday said another human rights catastrophe was unfolding in Sudan, in the city of al-Obeid in North Kordofan, and urged the world to act.

The signs from al-Obeid are clear and unmistakable: Another human rights catastrophe is unfolding in Sudan, this time in the capital of the strategic state of North Kordofan, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights Volker Turk told delegates in Geneva during an urgent debate at the U.N. human rights council on the situation in the region. The urgent debate was called by Britain, whose envoy previously warned of the risk of large-scale atrocities following reports that Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces and allies are massing forces around the city of al-Obeid, which could result in an escalation of the conflict.

Iran Holds Grand Funeral for Slain Supreme Leader Khamenei

Iran began elaborate state funeral ceremonies honoring slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei amid heightened security and tensions nationwide

DUBAI

Iran on Friday witnessed the beginning of an extensive week-long state funeral for its slain Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, whose body was placed in state inside a vast prayer hall in Tehran. Clerics, senior government officials, foreign dignitaries, military commanders, and thousands of mourners gathered to pay their final respects to the leader who ruled the Islamic Republic for thirty-seven years.

The funeral ceremonies come months after Khamenei was reportedly killed during United States and Israeli airstrikes at the beginning of a four-month conflict that dramatically reshaped regional politics. Iranian authorities have presented the funeral as

a demonstration of national unity, public devotion, and unwavering commitment to the country's Islamic revolutionary ideals despite ongoing domestic and international challenges.

Khamenei's coffin was publicly unveiled before a large gathering of grieving supporters. Many mourners were seen weeping, chanting religious hymns, beating their chests in mourning, and throwing flowers toward the coffin as it passed through the crowd.

On Friday, the coffin, along with those of family members who were reportedly killed in the same strike, was placed inside the grand prayer hall dedicated to the memory of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

According to official plans, Khamenei's remains will travel through several important religious centers, including Qom in Iran and the Iraqi cities of Najaf and Kerbala, before the final burial in Mashhad, home to one of the country's most significant pilgrimage shrines. Authorities expect millions of people to participate in the funeral processions throughout the week.

The funeral is taking place during a politically sensitive period for Iran. The country's leadership, backed by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, has portrayed its survival during the recent conflict as a historic victory against powerful foreign adversaries. However, political observers believe the nation continues to face serious internal divisions despite official declarations of national solidarity.

Years of severe international sanctions have significantly weakened Iran's economy, while repeated nationwide protests have reflected widespread public dissatisfaction. Security forces have responded forcefully to demonstrations in recent years, contributing to continued political tensions across the country.

Attention has also focused on Iran's new Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, the late leader's son, who has made only limited public appearances since reportedly sustaining injuries during the strike that killed his father. His leadership is expected to shape Iran's political direction during a period of uncertainty and heightened regional tensions.

At least 3,700 excess deaths reported during heatwave in France

PARIS

France, Belgium, and the Netherlands have reported a combined total of approximately 3,700 excess deaths following a devastating June heatwave that pushed temperatures to record levels across Europe. Health authorities in the three countries cautioned that the figures remain preliminary and are likely to increase as further data becomes available.

The intense heatwave, which lasted from around June 20 to June 28, has been described by experts as the most severe ever recorded in Europe during this period. In addition to claiming thousands of lives, the extreme temperatures disrupted electricity generation, damaged transport and public infrastructure, and placed enormous pressure on hospitals and emergency healthcare services. Scientists have stated that the extraordinary weather event.

China dismisses US, EU criticism of new ethnic law as 'malicious smear'

BEIJING

China dismissed U.S. and EU criticism of the country's new law on ethnic unity as a malicious smear and interference in its internal affairs on Friday, legislation one senior Taiwanese official likened to an imperial edict given its global sweep.

The law, which went into effect on Wednesday, gives Beijing the basis to take action against people outside its borders.

China passed the law in March to create a shared national identity among the country's 55 ethnic minority groups, which include Tibetans and Uyghurs, some of whom chafe under Chinese governance and have often staged protests, some of them violent.

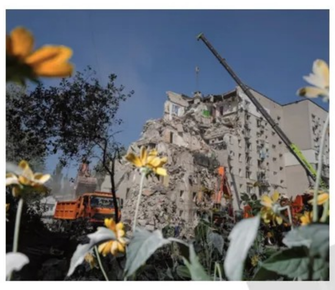
Deadly Russian Strike Leaves Kyiv Mourning amid Rescue Efforts

KYIV

Rescue teams continued searching through the wreckage across Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, on Friday after a devastating Russian missile and drone assault killed at least 30 people and injured dozens more. The attack, described as the deadliest strike on the capital this year, prompted authorities to declare a day of mourning as emergency workers raced against time to locate survivors trapped beneath collapsed buildings.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed that at least 92 people sustained injuries in the large-scale assault, while several residents remained missing. Among those unaccounted for were the parents of a 10-year-old boy who survived the attack but remains hospitalized, as well as a 15-year-old girl whose whereabouts were still unknown. Rescue operations entered a second consecutive day as crews carefully removed debris and forensic experts worked to identify recovered human remains.

Across the city, flags were lowered to half-mast in tribute to the victims. Residents gath-



Ukraine observed a day of mourning as rescuers searched rubble following Russia's deadliest Kyiv attack this year

ered near damaged apartment blocks to mourn those killed while volunteers assisted emergency responders by distributing food, water, and medical supplies to affected families. The widespread destruction left entire neighborhoods scarred, with shattered buildings, burned vehicles, and debris covering major streets.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy strongly condemned the attack, accusing Russia of deliberately targeting residential areas instead of pursuing peace. In his evening address, he stated that Russia had no justification for continuing the war beyond the use of ballistic missiles against civilian infrastructure. According to the president, more than 100 residential buildings across Kyiv suffered varying degrees of damage during the overnight bombardment, highlighting the unprecedented scale of destruction inflicted on the capital.

The violence extended beyond Kyiv. In Ukraine's northern Sumy region, a separate Russian drone strike on a residential house claimed the lives of four people overnight. The victims included a woman and her toddler daughter, according to the Prosecutor General's Office, adding to the growing civilian death toll from the latest wave of attacks.The latest strikes come as the conflict enters its fifth year. Although Ukraine has managed to slow Russian advances along much of the approximately 1,200-kilometer front line and has regained limited territory in some sectors, hostilities remain intense. Russia stated that the missile and drone attacks were carried out in retaliation for Ukrainian drone strikes deep inside Russian territory.

Israeli settlers seize Palestinian family's unfinished home

JALUD

A Palestinian family's dream of building a new home in the occupied West Bank has been shattered after a group of Israeli settlers allegedly seized the unfinished property before construction was completed. The incident has raised fresh concerns over increasing settlement expansion and the growing vulnerability of Palestinian communities living near Israeli settlements.

The house belonged to Mohammad Salameh, who had been constructing the two-story building for his family. According to Salameh, the home was intended to provide a place for his recently engaged son to begin married life. Instead, the unfinished structure was reportedly taken over by Israeli settlers, leaving the family uncertain whether they will ever regain possession of their property.

Verified video footage recorded earlier in the week showed at least six Israeli settlers moving around on the roof of the unfinished house, which is located beneath a nearby hill surrounded by Israeli settlements and smaller settlement outposts. The footage has intensified attention on the incident, which local residents describe as an alarming development in the ongoing dispute over land ownership in the territory.

Salameh said he sought assistance from both the Israeli military and police after discovering the occupation of his property. However, he claimed that his appeals produced no immediate action. He now fears that the house is permanently lost and believes neighboring Palestinian properties could face similar takeovers if authorities fail to intervene.

Expressing his frustration, Salameh said that only the enforcement of law and order could prevent further seizures. He warned that if settlers are allowed to keep one Palestinian home without consequences, other nearby houses could become future targets.

The Israeli military stated that it was examining requests for information regarding the incident but had not issued an official response. Israeli police also did not immediately comment on the reported seizure. Reuters said it was unable to contact the settlers involved for their response, although one individual was seen walking on the roof of the house during a subsequent visit.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ZUBAIR AHMED**, aged 47 years, S/o. Roushan Zameer, Residing at No. 3587/4, Shabbirnagar, Hunsur Town, Hunsur Taluk -571105, Mysore District, Karnataka, have changed my name from **ZUBAIR AHAMED to ZUBAIR AHMED**, vide affidavit dated: 02.07.2026 before notary VEERESH RAO BOBADE, Hunsur.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ashish Kumar S/o Ashwini Kumar Verma R/o #Villa No 38 Peninsula Palmville Doddathimmasandra Road, Bengaluru Karnataka-562125, I have changed the name of my minor Son Atharv Shrivastava to Atharvva Shrivastava aged 8 years.

CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, AMEENA BI W/o late SALEEM PASHA, R/o No. 69, Ground Floor, 4th Cross, Telecom Layout Vijayanagar, Magadi Road, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560023, declared that name of my father and mother have been wrongly written as ABDUL AMEED and MUNEERA BEGAM in my Birth Certificate register no. 2534 and in my passport no. X6959588. The actual name of my father and mother are ABDUL HAMEED and MUNIRA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUMITRA SATISH alias SUMITRA V S W/o H R SATISH, R/o 916, Santrupthi, 3rd Cross, 5th Block, B E L Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka 560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUMITRA SATISH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, K C CHANNAMMA alias CHANNAMMA K C alias C H A N N A M M A CHANDRASHEKARA KAMBARA D/o CHANDRASHEKARA KAMBARA, W/o NAVEEN VASANT MOOGANUR, R/o 44 Siri Sampige, 1st Main, 4th Block, Behind Anna Kuteera, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Kathriguppe, Bangalore South, Bangalore, Karnataka-560085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHANNAMMA KAMBARA.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1079/2025

Petitioner: **Sri.Chikkavenkatappa** S/o Late Kurlappa Aged about 75 years, R/at No.22, Sonnenahalli Village, Gundamagere Post, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. V/S

Respondent Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk. Doddaballapura.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner, has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act. 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name LATE KURLAPPA S/O LATE CHIKKAVENKATAPPA who died on 04.05.1982 at Sonnenahalli Village. Sasalu Hobli. Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 31-07-2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 03rd day of July 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

K.S.Santhala, Advocate Doddaballapur Town.
Date: 06/2626

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1025/2025

Petitioners: Smt.Radhamma D/o Late Shyamaraju W/o Raghavendra Aged about 32 years, R/at Hamam Village, Shivapura Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another. V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name LATE SHYAMARAJU LATE MUNIYAPPA who died on 06.09.2015 at Hamam Shivapura Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 31-07-2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 03rd day of July 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate **B.M.Murthy,** Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town.

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT DODDABALLAPURA
CMis.No.1026/2025

Petitioners: Smt.Radhamma D/o Late Shyamaraju W/o Raghavendra Aged about 32 years, R/at Hamam Village, Shivapura Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk and another. V/s

Respondent: Registrar of Birth and death The Tahshildar Doddaballapura Taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioner has filed the above petition under Section 13 (3) And 14 Of Registration Of Births And Deaths Act, 1969 for seeking the death certificate of the father of petitioner by name LATE VENKATALAKSHMAMMA W/O LATE SHYAMARAJU who died on 18.01.2010 at Pindakuru Thimmanahalli Village, Shivapura Post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk

In this regard it is hereby notice that whoever has interested in the said matter may appear in person or through an advocate duly authorized before the above said court on 31-07-2026 In default this matter will be heard and disposed off an ex-parte order.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on the 03rd day of July 2026.

By Order of the Court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapura

Advocate **B.M.Murthy,** Sulibele Road, Devanahalli Town.

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.
C.Mis. No. 143/2026

Petitioners:: **1. Smt. Annapoorna.N** W/o Late Narasimhamurty D/o Narasaiah, Aged about 45 Years, **2. Smt. Jyothilakshmi.N** D/o Late Narashimamurthy Aged about 28 Years, **3. Smt. Shashikala** D/o Narashimamurthy Aged about 24 Years, All are R/at No.24/1, Bandappa Road, Yashavantha Pura Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Vs Respondent: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, DODDABALLAPUR.

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

Whereas the above named petitioners have filed the petition in order to seek death certificate of 1st Petitioner's Husband namely Narasimhamurthy S/o Narasimhaiah who died on 04.11.2008.

Any person or persons having any objections regarding the issuance of death certificate of Narasimhamurthy S/o Narasimhaiah can file the necessary objections before the Hon'ble Court.

The above petition is posted on 30-07-2026 for your objections it is hereby called upon the general public is there any objections nor claims in respect of issuance of death certificate of Narasimhamurthy S/o Narasimhaiah, they can appear before the aforesaid date and time before the Hon'ble court, on the same day if the general public has not come up with any objections the court will decided the petition in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this court on this day 02 Juy 2026. Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge Court at Doddaballapura.

By order of the Hon'ble Court, Shirasthedar, HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.

Advocate: **Sri. H.M. Madhusudhana,** Advocates, Sri. Manjunatha Law Chambers, #28, 2nd Floor, PLD Bank Complex, Taluk office Circle, Doddaballapura 561203

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.
C.Mis. No. 168/2026

Petitioner: Sri.Narashimaiah.M S/o Late Marahanumaiah Aged about 48 Years R/at Gundahalli Village Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, V/s

Respondent: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, DODDABALLAPUR.

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

Whereas the above named petitioners have filed the petition in order to seek death certificate of 1st Petitioner's grandfather namely Eraobalaiah S/o Marahanumaiah who died on 20.10.1958.

Any person or persons having any objections regarding the issuance of death certificate of Eraobalaiah S/o Marahanumaiah can file the necessary objections before the Hon'ble Court.

The above petition is posted on 31.07.2026 for your objections it is hereby called upon the general public is there any objections nor claims in respect of issuance of death certificate of Eraobalaiah S/o Marahanumaiah, they can appear before the aforesaid date and time before the Hon'ble court, on the same day if the general public has not come up with any objections the court will decided the petition in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this court on this day 02 Juy 2026. Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge Court at Doddaballapura.

By order of the Hon'ble Court, Shirasthedar, HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.

Advocate: **Sri. H.M. Madhusudhana,** Advocates, Sri. Manjunatha Law Chambers, #28, 2nd Floor, PLD Bank Complex, Taluk office Circle, Doddaballapura 561203

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.
C.Mis. No. 165/2026

Petitioner: Sri.Narashimaiah.M S/o Late Marahanumaiah Aged about 48 Years R/at Gundahalli Village Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, V/s

Respondent: The Tahasildar, Doddaballapura Taluk, DODDABALLAPUR.

NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION

Whereas the above named petitioners have filed the petition in order to seek death certificate of 1st Petitioner's grandmother namely Kadiramma W/o Late Eraobalaiah who died on 05.05.1960.

Any person or persons having any objections regarding the issuance of death certificate of Eraobalaiah S/o Marahanumaiah can file the necessary objections before the Hon'ble Court.

The above petition is posted on 31.07.2026 for your objections it is hereby called upon the general public is there any objections nor claims in respect of issuance of death certificate of Eraobalaiah S/o Marahanumaiah, they can appear before the aforesaid date and time before the Hon'ble court, on the same day if the general public has not come up with any objections the court will decided the petition in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this court on this day 02 Juy 2026. Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge Court at Doddaballapura.

By order of the Hon'ble Court, Shirasthedar, HON'BLE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE, AT DODDABALLAPURA.

Advocate: **Sri. H.M. Madhusudhana,** Advocates, Sri. Manjunatha Law Chambers, #28, 2nd Floor, PLD Bank Complex, Taluk office Circle, Doddaballapura 561203

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MISC. NO.346/2026

Between: PETITIONER: 1.Sri.Channappa S/o Channarayappa Aged about 81 years R/at Kadanuru village Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. Bangalore Rural District. **2.Smt.Manjamma** W/o Jayarama & also. D/o Channappa & Muniyallamma Aged about 38 years R/at Rajaghatta village, Tubagere Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. **3.Sri.Srinivas** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 42 years R/at #805, 1st Cross Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, krishnappa Garments, Uttarahalli, Bangalore South, Bengallore-560061 **4.Sri.Nagesh** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 39 years, R/at Vivekananda nagara, Veerapura post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. **5.Sri.Umesh** S/o Muniyallappa, Aged about 37 years, R/at # 70,, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, Uttarahalli, Near Krishnappa Garments, Bangalore. South. Bangalore-560061, V/S

RESPONDENT: Tahasildar, Doddaballapura taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The have above petition filed for issuance of Directions to the respondent to Register the Death of one Smt. Dalamma W/o Channarayappa who Died on 22-04-1928 at his Residence Kadanuru village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, If any parties who have objections may Dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble II Additional civil judge JMFC at Doddaballapura on 31.07.2026 at 11.Am in C.Mis. No.346/2026.

Issued on 03.07.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil J & JMFC Doddaballapura

Address for services: **Naveen kumar D N** Advocate, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MISC. NO.347/2026

Between: PETITIONER: 1.Sri.Channappa S/o Channarayappa Aged about 81 years R/at Kadanuru village Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. Bangalore Rural District. **2.Smt.Manjamma** W/o Jayarama & also. D/o Channappa & Muniyallamma Aged about 38 years R/at Rajaghatta village, Tubagere Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. **3.Sri.Srinivas** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 42 years R/at #805, 1st Cross Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, krishnappa Garments, Uttarahalli, Bangalore South, Bengallore-560061 **4.Sri.Nagesh** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 39 years, R/at Vivekananda nagara, Veerapura post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. **5.Sri.Umesh** S/o Muniyallappa, Aged about 37 years, R/at # 70,, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, Uttarahalli, Near Krishnappa Garments, Bangalore. South. Bangalore-560061, V/S

RESPONDENT: Tahasildar, Doddaballapura taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The have above petition filed for issuance of Directions to the respondent to Register the Death of one Smt. Yallamma W/o Channarayappa who Died on 10-07-1981 at his Residence Kadanuru village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, If any parties who have objections may Dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble II Additional civil judge JMFC at Doddaballapura on 31.07.2026 at 11.Am in C.Mis. No.347/2026.

Issued on 03.07.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil J & JMFC Doddaballapura

Address for services: **Naveen kumar D N** Advocate, Doddaballapura

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AND J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPURA
C.MISC. NO.350/2026

Between: PETITIONER: 1.Sri.Channappa S/o Channarayappa Aged about 81 years R/at Kadanuru village Madhure Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. Bangalore Rural District. **2.Smt.Manjamma** W/o Jayarama & also. D/o Channappa & Muniyallamma Aged about 38 years R/at Rajaghatta village, Tubagere Hobli Doddaballapura taluk. **3.Sri.Srinivas** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 42 years R/at #805, 1st Cross Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, krishnappa Garments, Uttarahalli, Bangalore South, Bengallore-560061 **4.Sri.Nagesh** S/o Muniyallappa Aged about 39 years, R/at Vivekananda nagara, Veerapura post, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk. **5.Sri.Umesh** S/o Muniyallappa, Aged about 37 years, R/at # 70,, Bhuvaneshwari Nagara, Uttarahalli, Near Krishnappa Garments, Bangalore. South. Bangalore-560061, V/S

RESPONDENT: Tahasildar, Doddaballapura taluk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The have above petition filed for issuance of Directions to the respondent to Register the Death of one Sri Channarayappa S/o Muniyallappa who Died on 06-10-1980 at his Residence Kadanuru village, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapura taluk, If any parties who have objections may Dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble II Additional civil judge JMFC at Doddaballapura on 31.07.2026 at 11.Am in C.Mis. No.350/2026.

Issued on 03.07.2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil J & JMFC Doddaballapura

Address for services: **Naveen kumar D N** Advocate, Doddaballapura

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Cossacks, volunteers maintain order at Black Sea petrol stations

ROSNEFT

Cossacks and volunteers have stepped in to help city officials and police keep order and prevent conflicts at petrol stations in the popular Russian Black Sea resort of Anapa, as Ukrainian attacks worsen a country-wide fuel crisis.

Strikes by Ukraine on energy infrastructure in Russia, the third-biggest oil producer globally, have triggered a fuel crisis in the world's largest country by territory, forcing it to import gasoline from as far away as India.

In Anapa, a popular vacation spot in the southern region of Krasnodar, Cossacks, a historic military and social community known for their distinctive uniforms and traditional fur hats, are among those helping to prevent fights when cars line up for fuel, the city's administration said on Telegram.

They regulate traffic flow, prevent conflicts and attempts to fill petrol cans with fuel, and ensure that the queue is maintained in an orderly manner, said the post published late.

Like other places in Russia and parts of Russian-occupied Ukraine, Anapa restricts drivers to buying 20 litres of gasoline per car, which a resident, Aleksandra Nesterenko, told a local TV station was enough for about a week.

I've come to terms with it. If the restrictions were introduced, then there's a good reason for them, Nesterenko, a woman who appeared to be in her 30s, said in the video that was attached to the city administration's post.

The changes have helped trim waiting times to 30 to 40 minutes from up to four hours, Arsen Melkumyan, an administration official, said in the same video, posing in front of a petrol station as cars kept coming and going.

Moldova's Prime Minister Munteanu steps down

CHISINAU

Moldova's Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu said on Friday he was stepping down, in a surprise announcement that also triggers the resignation of the government.

Munteanu, who has served as prime minister since November 2025, gave no full explanation for his decision. Today, my term as Prime Minister comes to an end, he said in a post on X. The moment I realized that I could no longer carry out my mandate in accordance with my principles and convictions, I chose to step down.

The move is a challenge for President Maia Sandu and her ruling pro-European Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS), now in its second consecutive term.

According to Moldova's parliamentary procedure, Sandu will hold consultations with parliamentary groups and then nominate a candidate for prime minister.

F1 DRIVERS PREPARE FOR LEGO RACE AT SILVERSTONE

F1 drivers will tackle Silverstone in full-size Lego electric cars before the British Grand Prix, bringing playful pre-race chaos despite Lewis Hamilton's lighthearted hesitation

SILVERSTONE

Formula One drivers are gearing up for a unique challenge ahead of the British Grand Prix. Racers will lap the famous Silverstone circuit in life-size mini-cars built entirely out of Lego bricks. While many young drivers are thrilled, seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton initially showed little enthusiasm for the stunt.

When asked about the parade, the British Ferrari driver jokingly called it the most dangerous part of the weekend. Last year in Miami, a similar Lego event resulted in multiple hilarious collisions that left toy bricks scattered across the track. Despite his hesitation, Ferrari later confirmed that Hamilton will participate alongside his eager teammate, Charles Leclerc, for the weekend's scheduled chaos.

Other drivers are openly excited about the playful challenge. McLaren's world champion, Lando Norris, admitted he is looking forward to the event, noting that simply making it back to the finish line intact would feel like a major victory.

These incredible vehicles are far from simple toys. A specialized team of twenty builders in the Czech Republic spent over 6,400 hours constructing the fleet. Each vehicle weighs around 280 kilograms and features more than 28,000 individual Lego bricks. Decorated in official 2026 team colors and driver numbers, the electric cars run on standard go-kart wheels. They can reach a maximum speed of 25 kilometers per hour, offering a slow and joyful spectacle for fans before the real high-speed racing begins.

Fritz and Anisimova lead American Wimbledon surge

LONDON

American tennis players dominated the grass courts of Wimbledon, securing a historic wave of victories. Amanda Anisimova survived a massive scare against fellow American Sofia Kenin to reach the third round. After being dragged into a fierce three-set battle, Anisimova relied on twenty powerful aces to secure a thrilling 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 win.

Anisimova's hard-fought victory sets up a blockbuster Saturday showdown against Madison Keys, beautifully coinciding with America's 250th independence anniversary. Meanwhile, Taylor Fritz emerged as a genuine title contender in the men's draw. The sixth seed used his massive serve to crush compatriot Patrick Kypson 6-2, 6-2, 7-5. Along with Frances Tiafoe, Fritz ensured the American flag kept flying incredibly high.

In total, fifteen American players have advanced to the third round this year. This impressive milestone marks their highest representation at this stage of the tournament since 1995. However, tough challenges lie ahead, as several young Americans are now scheduled to face top seeds like Alexander Zverev and Jannik Sinner.

In other action, defending women's champion Iga Swiatek cruised past former world number one Karolina Pliskova 6-1, 6-3. Swiatek will next face Alexandra Eala, who became the first-ever Filipino player to reach the third round of a Grand Slam. For the home crowd, Arthur Fery provided a lone bright spot. Watched by Kate, the Princess of Wales, the wildcard winner became the last British player standing after fighting past Finland's Otto Virtanen.

Coach White leads Junior Hockey Team to UK

BENGALURU

The Indian junior women's hockey team flew out from Bengaluru, heading to the United Kingdom for a crucial development tour.

Running from July 5 to 14, the trip will see the young squad play seven highly competitive matches across Scotland and England. This international tour serves as vital preparation for major upcoming events, including the Junior Asia Cup.

Led by new chief coach Tim White, the fresh twenty-four-player squad features Captain Khaidem Shileima Chanu alongside talented goalkeepers Nidhi and Engil Harsha Rani Minz. The lineup includes a solid defensive unit, an energetic midfield, and a sharp forward line featuring promising players like Sukhveer Kaur and Shashi Khasa.

Coach White explained that this European tour is a massive milestone for the development of the junior squad. Since many of these young athletes have never played against foreign teams before, the matches will offer a great learning experience. The team has spent ten weeks practicing specific strategies, and White plans to use these games to test those new systems under real match pressure.

The exciting tour kicks off with two challenging matches against the Scotland Senior Women's Team at the University of Edinburgh. After that, the Indian side will travel to the Lilleshall National Sports Centre. There, they will face tough junior teams from the United States, England, and Belgium. White expects a fierce challenge but believes the tour will successfully highlight the team's strengths and areas for growth.

GEORGIA STANWAY JOINS ARSENAL ON FREE TRANSFER

LONDON

England international midfielder Georgia Stanway has officially signed with Arsenal on a free transfer. The 27-year-old soccer star returns to the Women's Super League after completing a highly successful four-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich, where her contract recently expired.

Stanway enjoyed a trophy-filled career during her time in Germany. She helped Bayern Munich win four consecutive Bundesliga titles, two German Cups, and two German Super Cups. Over her four seasons abroad, she cemented her status as one of the best central midfielders in the world, scoring 32 goals in 128 appearances for the club.

Before moving to Germany in 2022, Stanway spent seven incredibly successful seasons with Manchester City. During her memorable time there, she made 186 appearances and scored 67 goals while winning a league title, three FA Cups, and three League Cups. Expressing her excitement about the move to North London, Stanway stated that she feels unbelievably proud to join a massive club like Arsenal, which is dedicated to pushing the women's game to brand new levels.

Arsenal's coaching staff is thrilled to add Stanway's immense talent and leadership to their roster. Last season, the team finished a close second in the league standings, just four points behind champions Manchester City. Arsenal officials believe that bringing in a proven winner like Stanway will add a fresh dimension to their midfield and provide the competitive edge they need to fight for major trophies next season.

Aston Martin debuts Honda engine upgrades in Zandvoort

SILVERSTONE

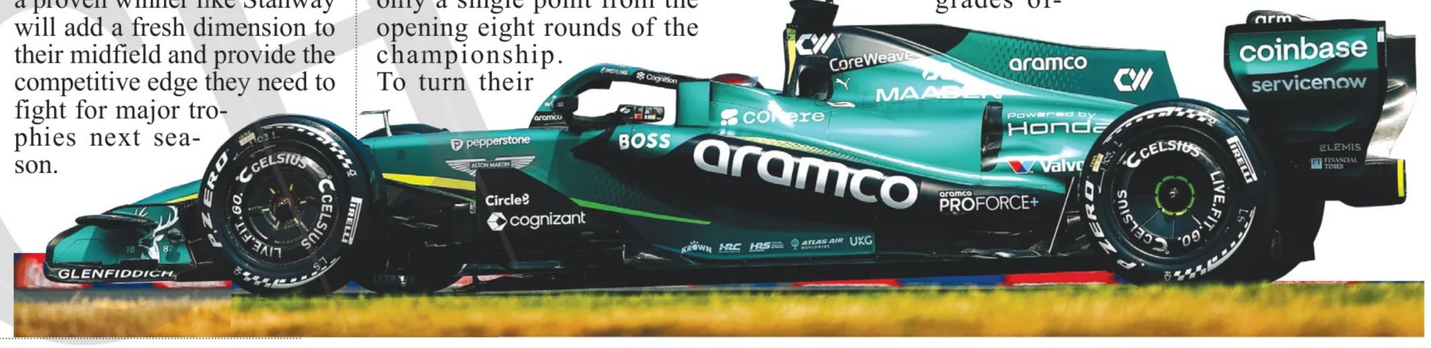
Formula One team Aston Martin is set to receive a powerful new Honda engine after the upcoming August summer break. The Japanese manufacturer's trackside boss, Shintaro Orihara, confirmed that the upgraded power unit will officially debut at the Dutch Grand Prix in Zandvoort.

Aston Martin has endured a very difficult racing season so far. The team currently sits at the bottom of the constructors' standings in tenth place, having managed to secure only a single point from the opening eight rounds of the championship. To turn their season around, the team is also planning to introduce a heavily revised car chassis at the Hungarian Grand Prix later this July.

Experts currently consider the Honda engine to be the weakest on the grid under the sport's new power unit regulations. Orihara admitted that the manufacturers are working around the clock to hit their Netherlands target. However, he realistically noted that the team will not catch up to top rivals like Mercedes or Red Bull Powertrains in a single step.

The upcoming upgrades offer a glimmer of hope for Aston Martin's drivers. Canadian racer Lance Stroll expressed optimism about the new aerodynamic packages and the fresh engine. Stroll, whose veteran teammate Fernando Alonso scored the team's lonely single point, stated that he hopes these changes will finally allow them to fight for points every single weekend.

Aston Martin will debut an upgraded Honda engine at the Dutch Grand Prix to revive their difficult racing season



CYCLING LEGEND CHRIS FROOME ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

BARCELONA

Legendary British cyclist Chris Froome has officially retired from professional sports. The four-time Tour de France champion confirmed the major news ahead of this year's highly anticipated Tour de France. The announcement brings a definitive end to a glittering and dominant career that spanned nearly two decades.

The 41-year-old sports icon has not competed since sustaining life-threatening injuries during a horrific training crash in France last summer. The devastating collision left him requiring emergency surgery for a spine fracture, a collapsed lung, a pericardial rupture, and five broken ribs. Speaking directly about the incident, Froome admitted that the terrible fall was not the way he wanted his journey to end, but he instantly knew his racing days were over.

Froome retires as one of the most successful general classification riders in the modern history of cycling. He won a spectacular total of seven Grand Tours, a haul that includes four Tour de France crowns, two Vuelta a España titles, and one thrilling victory at the Giro d'Italia. Representing Great Britain, he also captured prestigious Olympic bronze medals in the individual time trial at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Games.

While a serious 2019 crash and subsequent collarbone injuries in 2025 severely hampered his later racing years, his impact on the sport remains completely undeniable. Instead of competing on the roads, Froome will stay close to the upcoming race action this summer, transitioning into an official brand ambassador role to inspire the next generation of riders.

Deepti Sharma praises mentality of Dhoni and Djokovic

LONDON

Indian cricket star Deepti Sharma has compared MS Dhoni to tennis legend Novak Djokovic. She believes both iconic athletes share a rare ability to stay calm and focused during high-pressure moments.

Deepti is currently attending the famous Wimbledon tennis tournament for the first time. She explained that Djokovic is widely admired for his incredible mental strength and his refusal to ever give up. In cricket, she feels Dhoni displays the exact same cool attitude. According to Deepti, Dhoni handles stressful match situations so effortlessly that he never looks troubled. She notes that watching both superstars inspires other athletes to stay strong when it matters most.

Being at Wimbledon is a dream come true for the Indian all-rounder. She revealed that watching a match live at the historic venue had been on her bucket list for many years. Deepti admitted she used to watch the tournament on television, but experiencing the energetic crowd and unique atmosphere in person is truly amazing.

While she grew up watching Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, Djokovic has become her absolute favourite player to follow. If she could choose any companions to spend a day with at Wimbledon, Deepti named Indian cricket legends Sachin Tendulkar, Ravi Shastri, and Sunil Gavaskar. She believes sharing the experience with them would be fantastic because of their deep sporting knowledge. Deepti is the second Indian cricketer to visit the tournament this week, following Shikhar Dhawan's recent appearance.

Tanya's defeat signals end of Indian campaign

TORONTO

India's journey at the Canada Open badminton tournament has officially ended. The final remaining Indian players, Aakarshi Kashyap and Tanya Hemanth, both suffered painful second-round defeats in the women's singles event.

Aakarshi Kashyap put up a brave fight against America's Beiwen Zhang. The intense match lasted for over an hour. Aakarshi started well and took an early lead, but her opponent fought back to win a close opening game. The Indian athlete pushed hard and tried to make a comeback, but Zhang proved too strong in the final moments, winning the deciding game to seal the match. This disappointment marks Aakarshi's third career loss against the American player.

Meanwhile, Tanya Hemanth faced a much tougher time on the court. She was easily defeated by Japan's Riko Gunji in just 31 minutes. Gunji dominated the entire match, winning comfortably with a score of 21-11, 21-11. This was the second week in a row that the Japanese player knocked Tanya out of a tournament.

Napoli appoints Massimiliano Allegri as Head Coach

NAPOLI

Massimiliano Allegri is officially the new head coach of Napoli. The Serie A club announced that the 58-year-old tactical veteran has signed a long-term contract to lead the team until June 30, 2029.

Allegri arrives in Naples looking for redemption after a very difficult period in his career. His second stint managing AC Milan was cut short this past May after just one single season. Milan's American owners, RedBird Capital Partners, fired him following a dramatic late-season collapse that they publicly called an "unequivocal failure." A heartbreaking 2-1 loss to Cagliari on the final day pushed Milan down to a fifth-place finish, meaning they missed out on crucial Champions League qualification for the second year in a row.

The coach's firing was part of a massive management shakeup at Milan that also saw senior executives Giorgio Furlani, Igli Tare, and Geoffrey Moncada leave the club. Before their final slump, where they managed to win only one of their last four matches, Milan had spent most of the season fighting near the very top of the Serie A table.

At Napoli, Allegri faces the big task of replacing Antonio Conte. Conte decided to leave his post despite successfully guiding the team to a strong second-place finish behind the reigning league champions, Inter Milan. As one of Italy's most successful managers with six Serie A trophies to his name, Allegri will look to use his deep experience to bring championship silverware back to Naples.

QUICK READ

Australia clears Sportsbet after safety upgrades

CANBERRA

Australia's financial crime watchdog, AUSTRAC, announced that online betting giant Sportsbet has successfully fixed its serious anti-money laundering flaws. The company faced heavy scrutiny two years ago for weak customer monitoring and poor risk checks. Following an independent audit, officials confirmed that Sportsbet upgraded its internal security systems to properly combat illegal money tracking. While Sportsbet declined to comment on the announcement, the watchdog warned it will keep a very close eye on the fast-growing online gambling industry, which remains highly attractive to tech-savvy criminals seeking to hide dirty cash.

India's service sector shows steady growth

NEW DELHI

India's service sector kept growing in June, hitting a solid score of 57.4 on the economic growth scale. A score above fifty means the economy is expanding. While local shopping slowed down slightly, a massive wave of online orders, busy tourist season, and heavy customer bookings kept businesses running smoothly. Even better, international sales boomed as foreign countries bought more Indian services. Companies also got a welcome break as the rising cost of doing business slowed to a five-month low, keeping local business owners confident about the future.

Solo entrepreneurs lead India's loan boom

NEW DELHI

Independent business owners are borrowing money faster than big corporations, says a new reports. Total business debt reached nearly sixty-six lakh crore rupees, jumping fourteen percent this year. Surprisingly, individual entrepreneur loans grew nearly twice as fast as corporate loans over three years. These solo dreamers now hold over a quarter of all business debt, frequently using property, trucks, and unsecured loans to fund their shops. Non-banking financial companies are driving this change by issuing half of these personal business loans, helping small neighborhood startups thrive across India.

Indian consumer goods sales set to explode

NEW DELHI

India's consumer goods market is bracing for a massive boom, with revenues expected to jump over seventeen percent annually through 2030. Reports reveal that tax cuts, easy bank loans, and a growing desire for premium products are driving this shopping surge. Smaller cities are also buying more goods than ever before. Meanwhile, India's overall economy remains rock solid, backed by strong manufacturing and a booming healthcare sector. Experts predict healthy financial growth ahead for most local industries, thanks to steady public demand and supportive government policies despite global tensions.

MeitY Secretary urges 15 % for IT Cybersecurity budget

MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan urged governments to allocate fifteen percent of IT budgets to cybersecurity for stronger digital defense

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary, S. Krishnan, stated that governments must allocate at least 15 percent of their IT budgets to cybersecurity. He emphasized that digital safety cannot be an afterthought and must be built directly into systems.

Speaking at a cybersecurity summit organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry, Krishnan explained that organizations must remain constantly alert against digital threats. He urged businesses to invest more resources into safety, support local security products, and quickly report any data breaches to official agencies. According to Krishnan, sharing this vital information is necessary to build a strong collective defense across the nation.

Other defense experts at the event discussed how rapid technological advancements are creating new global security challenges. Officials noted that the rise of Artificial General Intelligence is changing the geopolitical landscape, making it crucial for the nation to develop its own advanced AI models. Additionally, experts warned that upcoming quantum computing technology will eventually make current digital security systems useless, meaning new protective measures must become a top priority.

The conference also highlighted how the fast growth of 5G and 6G networks has given hackers more opportunities to target both large corporations and small businesses. The important event brought together top policymakers and tech experts to find better ways to protect India's digital future against these evolving global threats.

India seeks US AI for Cyber Defenses

NEW DELHI: India is talking with the United States to get its hands on Anthropic's advanced AI program, Project Glasswing. The goal is to aggressively test and protect India's critical digital networks against sophisticated cyber threats. Government official S. Krishnan shared that this cutting-edge tool will allow experts to stress-test vital software. While waiting for the US partnership to finalize, India is not sitting idle. Tech teams are already running safety checks, completing up to seventy percent of the testing by using existing AI systems to lock down security and protect public data.

Big cash boost: NRIs flood Indian banks

An innovative RBI scheme has sparked a $3 billion NRI deposit surge, with banks offering up to 7.5% interest to boost India's foreign exchange reserves.

MUMBAI

Indian banks are seeing a big jump in overseas money, thanks to a clever new scheme by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) are rushing to park their savings back home, bringing in an estimated $3 billion to $4 billion so far.

Bankers are thrilled and expect this number to skyrocket to $50 billion soon. The biggest wave of money is coming from Indians living in the Gulf region. To make this happen, the RBI made a smart move last month. They promised to pay for the insurance costs that banks usually face when handling foreign money.

Even better, the central bank has removed strict rules on interest rates until September 30, 2026. This allows banks to fight for NRI accounts by offering fantastic returns. Right now, big banks are giving up to 6.5 percent interest, while smaller finance banks are offering a whopping 7.5 percent for long-term deposits.

Before these changes, banks were tied down by strict limits and could not offer such high rates. Now, they have the total freedom to give overseas Indians a much better deal.

Lenders are not sitting around either. Teams are actively reaching out to NRI communities worldwide to spread the word. This massive cash inflow is great news for India. It will help build up the nation's foreign exchange reserves and keep the Indian rupee strong against global currencies.

RECENT HOME LOAN INTEREST RATE CUTS HAVE KEPT HOUSING AFFORDABLE IN SIX OF INDIA'S EIGHT MAJOR CITIES

Housing stays affordable nationwide except Mumbai & Delhi

NEW DELHI

Buying a home remains affordable in six out of eight major Indian cities, thanks to recent cuts in loan interest rates. New reports reveals that lower borrowing costs are helping families manage their monthly home loan payments easily.

Ahmedabad has emerged as the most budget-friendly city, where families spend just 23 percent of their income on home loans. Kolkata and Pune follow closely as highly affordable options. However, Mumbai and Delhi-NCR remain expensive, with families spending well over half their monthly earnings on housing. Costs also rose slightly in Bengaluru and Delhi due to climbing property prices.

The real estate market has been on a rollercoaster ride lately. During the pandemic, interest rates dropped drastically, making homes cheap. Rates then spiked when inflation hit, making homes expensive again. Fortunately, recent rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India have restored balance, keeping the market steady and active.

Experts note that while rising property prices have slowed down affordability gains, the situation remains positive.

Strong job growth, steady salaries, and helpful bank loans are keeping the dream of homeownership alive for many. Looking ahead, stable incomes will be key to keeping Indian housing affordable for everyone.

Commercial renewable energy to reach 100 gw, say reports

NEW DELHI

India's commercial and industrial renewable energy capacity is set to skyrocket from 32 gigawatts to 100 gigawatts by 2032. A new report reveals that green energy storage systems will also leap tenfold to 31 gigawatt-hours, driven by corporate green goals and rising electricity costs.

The upcoming India Energy Storage Week 2026 exhibition in New Delhi will officially release these findings. The event will bring together government officials, regulators, and industry leaders to solve policy bottlenecks and accelerate India's transition toward cleaner, more resilient power sources.

State-level policy innovations are major drivers of this explosive growth. For instance, Maharashtra now mandates energy storage for all new renewable projects above 100 kilowatts. Other major states like Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan are also speeding up green adoption by removing transmission charges and introducing helpful billing policies.

Heavy industries will remain the biggest users of these massive battery storage systems, using them to ensure uninterrupted operations. Meanwhile, data centers and critical public infrastructure, including hospitals, airports, and metro stations, will see the fastest growth in clean energy adoption.

Tech alliance: Japan drives Indian job boom

NEW DELHI

Japan has become the top contributor to India's Global Capability Centre (GCC) ecosystem within the Asia-Pacific region.

Reports reveals that Japanese companies have already set up more than 100 of these specialized hubs across the country to drive global corporate innovation.

These centers are rapidly transforming into vital setups for high-tech engineering, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and advanced digital manufacturing.

Experts note that India perfectly combines massive scale, top-tier engineering talent, and digital expertise, making it a highly attractive destination for major Japanese enterprises looking to grow.

This booming partnership is projected to generate a massive $470 billion to $600 billion economic impact by 2030, contributing up to 2.8 percent to India's GDP.

While large metros hold the majority of these hubs, the next phase of expansion is moving into smaller, upcoming cities like Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Kochi, and Indore due to cheaper costs and supportive local government policies. The current setup shows a heavy focus on technical industries.

Bangladesh's electricity bills pile up, crisis looms

DHAKA

Bangladesh is facing a severe energy crisis as the government delays massive payments to independent power companies. The state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board currently owes these private producers around Tk 25,000 crore. This massive delay has left electricity companies without enough cash to buy fuel, maintain equipment, or pay their workers.

Experts warn that this financial crunch could trigger a dangerous chain reaction. Because local banks heavily funded these power projects, a failure to pay could ruin bank assets and freeze lending across the entire economy. If these plants cannot buy fuel, widespread power outages and long blackouts will likely follow soon.

The crisis also threatens Bangladesh's international reputation. Foreign banks and global investors fund big projects expecting contracts to be respected.

If trust breaks down, securing future loans for ports, roads, and energy will become incredibly expensive or impossible.

To prevent a total collapse, the government, power companies, and global lenders must act immediately. Experts suggest creating a clear repayment plan, using government-backed financial tools, or reorganizing the debt to help fix the cash shortage. The main goal is to get money flowing again while understanding the government's tight budget limits.

Green policy set to boost M'rashtra's economy

MUMBAI: Maharashtra is launching a bold plan to fight pollution and become a major green manufacturing hub. The government has officially approved the Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy 2026. Running until 2031, this project aims to turn the state into a national center for eco-friendly plastic research, production, and global exports. Officials expect the new policy to bring in ₹25,000 crore in investments and create over 130,000 jobs. It aims to manufacture 200,000 tonnes of bioplastics every year, cutting India's reliance on costly imports by half. The state also wants to swap 30 percent of single-use plastics for compostable alternatives and connect 100,000 local farmers to the supply chain. To back this mission, the cabinet cleared a large fund of ₹10,892 crore.

UIDAI launches free mobile email update feature

NEW DELHI

Over 2.5 lakh citizens successfully updated their linked email addresses within just two days of a new mobile application launch. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) introduced this feature to allow users to update their personal credentials directly from their smartphones, removing the hassle of visiting physical enrollment centers.

To encourage widespread adoption, the government has made this email update feature entirely free of charge for the next six months, starting July 1, 2026. This initiative aligns with the country's ongoing digital transformation goals to make essential public services more accessible to everyone.

Linking an email profile to the national identity database provides a crucial security boost. Citizens will now receive real-time email alerts whenever an authentication request is made, creating an extra layer of defense against identity theft. The newly upgraded application serves as a one-stop platform for multiple identity services. Beyond email changes, the app has already helped over 40 lakh people update their mobile numbers and another 10 lakh residents modify their home addresses.

Authorities are strongly urging citizens to take advantage of this complimentary window. The official application is now available for download across both Android and iOS devices, allowing users to keep their information accurate with just a few clicks.

America remains India's biggest LPG supplier

NEW DELHI

The United States kept its crown as India's biggest supplier of cooking gas this June. India has been actively diversifying its energy imports to protect itself from ongoing political tensions and supply uncertainties across West Asia.

According to data, India brought in over 773 thousand metric tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas from America. This represents an impressive nineteen percent increase compared to May.

Overall, India's total gas imports ticked up by three percent this month. Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates took the second spot, while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait trailed behind.

This growing bond with America is part of a deliberate plan to avoid relying too heavily on any single region. In fact, Indian state refiners have signed a long-term deal to import millions of tonnes of American gas starting this year.

This move heavily reduces dependence on traditional Gulf suppliers.

Before the West Asian conflict, nearly ninety percent of India's gas shipments traveled through the risky Strait of Hormuz.

Seoul plans Starlink style network and faster moon mission

SEOUL

South Korea is ready to launch its own massive space network by 2035. The country plans to put hundreds of small satellites into a low orbit around Earth. This project will work just like SpaceX's famous Starlink system, helping the nation build a stronger home-grown space industry.

Space experts say this new network is vital for protecting national security and setting up future 6G internet networks. At the same time, the government is speeding up its timeline to reach the moon. Officials announced that South Korea now wants to land its first spacecraft on the lunar surface by 2030, which is two years earlier than they originally planned.

To hit this fast deadline, scientists will not wait for their next-generation rocket to be finished. Instead, they will use the current three-stage Nuri rocket to carry a smaller, privately made lander into space. The nation also plans to send a moon communications satellite into orbit by 2029 and a scientific probe by 2031 to prepare for bigger missions. To make these dreams a reality, South Korean leaders are reaching out to global partners. A special team of government and private experts is currently traveling to Europe.

E-RICKSHAW HACK CRISIS

Hackers via apps remotely freeze moving e-rickshaws

NEW DELHI

The government has banned several dangerous mobile applications, including China's BAT-BMS, Lossigy, and Epoch i-ion, after shocking social media videos showed pranksters remotely shutting down moving e-rickshaws using smartphones.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology ordered Google and Apple to pull the apps over serious cybersecurity and safety threats. Originally designed to monitor Bluetooth-enabled lithium-ion batteries by tracking health, temperature, and voltage, the apps also include a feature to completely turn off battery power for maintenance. The crisis hits because many Indian e-rickshaws use these Chinese battery systems without any password protection, leaving them on factory-default settings. Consequently, anyone standing within a 20-meter Bluetooth range can easily hijack the connection and flip the kill switch. Once disabled, the vehicle loses all power, and drivers cannot restart it using the physical ignition key.

One helpless driver shared how his vehicle abruptly died while carrying passengers, forcing him to pay a mechanic 300 rupees just to reconnect the app and unlock the battery. Stranded drivers are left highly vulnerable as they lack the technological expertise to protect their vehicles.

Fortunately, this digital threat only targets unencrypted, Bluetooth-linked lithium-ion batteries. Traditional lead-acid batteries and newer electric cars remain completely safe, as they use advanced, multi-layered encryption that blocks unauthorized wireless access.

LIVERPOOL honors Diogo Jota on death anniversary

Liverpool honors the late Diogo Jota and his brother, while Portugal dedicates a thrilling World Cup victory to them

LIVERPOOL

Premier League club Liverpool has paid an emotional tribute to former Portuguese forward Diogo Jota and his brother, Andre Silva, on the first anniversary of their tragic deaths. The club honored their lasting legacy both on and off the football pitch in a heartfelt message.

Jota and his brother lost their lives on July 3, 2025, in a devastating car crash in northwestern Spain when their vehicle left the road. The unexpected tragedy deeply saddened the global football community. One year later, Liverpool shared a moving post on social media to comfort the family, stating that the brothers remain forever in the hearts of everyone at the club.

During his successful time at Anfield, Jota became a beloved figure among fans due to his incredible work rate, goals, and deep commitment. To ensure the brothers are never forgotten, Liverpool recently unveiled a permanent monument outside their stadium on 97 Avenue. The special memorial is beautifully titled "Forever 20," representing Jota's iconic jersey number.

This specific location holds great meaning for the club, as it is the exact spot where thousands of grieving fans gathered last year to leave flowers, banners, and scarves. Liverpool reaffirmed its continuous love, thoughts, and prayers for the grieving family during this difficult time. The club stated that while the pain of losing them is still immense, the positive impact the brothers made across the world will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

RONALDO WINS EMOTIONAL WC FOR JOTA

TORONTO

Portugal pulled off a thrilling 2-1 World Cup win against Croatia, dedicating the beautiful victory to their late teammate Diogo Jota. The emotional match took place exactly one year after Jota tragically died in a car crash. After trailing early, superstar Cristiano Ronaldo scored a crucial penalty to tie the intense game. Goncalo Ramos then headed in the dramatic winning goal during stoppage time. After the final whistle, an emotional Ronaldo held up Jota's number 21 jersey to honor his dear friend. Portugal now moves on to face rivals Spain on Monday in a massive Round of 16 knockout game.

Embolo's strike sets up comfortable victory

Switzerland comfortably defeated Algeria 2-0 to reach the World Cup Round of 16, securing their third consecutive tournament victory through goals from Embolo and Ndoye

VANCOUVER

Switzerland put on a fantastic show, defeating Algeria 2-0 at BC Place to comfortably secure their spot in the World Cup Round of 16.

Key goals from Breel Embolo and Dan Ndoye powered the Swiss team to victory. Although Algeria played well during parts of the first half, Ndoye's quick goal right after halftime completely destroyed their confidence. From that moment on, Algeria never really looked like making a comeback.

This major win means Switzerland has now won three World Cup matches in a row for the very first time. This hot streak includes earlier group-stage victories against Canada and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Switzerland took control very early, scoring in the tenth minute. Johan Manzambi made a brilliant run into the box and passed the ball back to Embolo, who easily tapped it in.

The Swiss team struck again just seconds into the second half. Denis Zakaria sent in a cross that the Algerian defense failed to clear properly. The ball fell to Ndoye, who calmly picked his spot from the edge of the box and fired it home.

Algeria faced a massive hill to climb, especially since Switzerland had lost only one of their last seventeen games. The Algerian attackers could not break through the solid Swiss defense. Switzerland has now reached the knockout stage for the fourth tournament in a row. They will stay in Vancouver to face either Colombia or Ghana on July 7.

JULIAN NAGELSMANN RESIGNS AS GERMANY'S HEAD COACH

BERLIN

Julian Nagelsmann has resigned as the head coach of Germany's football team following their shocking early exit from the 2026 World Cup. The German Football Association pressured the coach to step down after a painful defeat against Paraguay in the Round of 32.

The famous world champions were knocked out in Boston after a dramatic penalty shootout. The intense match ended in a 1-1 draw after extra time, but Paraguay held their nerve to win the shootout 4-3. This devastating loss shocked fans worldwide, as Germany historically possessed an incredibly strong record in penalty shootouts.

Following the tournament disaster, soccer directors held emergency talks to analyze what went wrong. Leaders made it clear that the national team could not simply return to regular business after such a humiliating failure. Facing a certain dismissal, Nagelsmann chose to walk away early, which allows him to collect a large compensation payout. His original contract was supposed to run until the 2028 European Championship.

Now, all eyes are turning to Jurgen Klopp as the absolute favorite to take over the empty hot seat. The highly popular former Liverpool boss is currently working as a television pundit and has expressed great interest in reviving Germany's soccer fortunes. Although Klopp is under contract as Red Bull's global head of football, his deal includes a special release clause that allows him to accept the German national job immediately. Officials plan to start formal job talks with Klopp very soon now.

Proteas will bounce back stronger, vows coach Mashimbyi

LONDON

South Africa's women's cricket coach, Mandla Mashimbyi, promises his team will return stronger after their tough T20 World Cup semi-final loss to England.

The Proteas were knocked out at The Oval after England grabbed a solid 40-run win to secure a spot in the grand finale against Australia. South Africa started the match well, quickly dismissing three key England batters. However, a massive partnership between Nat Sciver-Brunt and Heather Knight turned the game around.

Instead of feeling defeated, Mashimbyi is focusing on the lessons learned. He explained that the team now knows exactly where they need to improve. The plan is to fix these gaps so they can truly dominate in future global tournaments.

Despite missing out on the final, South Africa had many bright spots. Batter Tazmin Brits led the scoring with 225 runs. Meanwhile, experienced star bowlers Marizanne Kapp and Shabnim Ismail each took eight wickets. Ismail had even come out of retirement just to play in this tournament. Mashimbyi hopes the veteran bowler will decide to stay on with the squad.

Looking back, the coach admitted their bowling style was too similar, making it easy for England to predict their moves. He emphasized that the main goal now is to build a more varied attack and develop new talent.

YAMAL SHINES AS SPAIN MOVES CLOSER TO GLORY

INGLEWOOD

Spain sent a strong warning to their tournament rivals with a flawless 3-0 victory over Austria. The dominant win easily pushed the former world champions into the round of 16. Spain has yet to concede a single goal in the competition and will now play against Portugal in the next stage.

While Spain's relentless attack looked spectacular, their defense was historically perfect. They did not allow Austria to take a single shot on target. This impressive feat marks the first time a team has achieved a defensive shutout in a World Cup knockout match since the 2014 final.

The breakthrough came when Marc Cucurella delivered a perfect cross to Mikel Oyarzabal, who smoothly guided the ball into the bottom corner. Austria tried to respond in the second half, but Sasa Kalajdzic sent his header harmlessly over the net. Spain doubled their lead in the 66th minute when Pedro Porro scored a great header before a packed celebrity crowd. Oyarzabal then sealed the match in the 89th minute, scoring his second goal after an Austrian defensive mistake.

The victory was extra special for 18-year-old star Lamine Yamal. The teenage winger looked fully recovered from a recent hamstring injury, causing constant trouble for Austria with his quick dribbling. After the match, the young player stated that he is rediscovering his best rhythm. He added that the entire squad is highly focused on making their childhood dreams come true by bringing the World Cup trophy home to Spain.

KOUNDE DISMISSES YAMAL'S CLAIMS OVER FAVORITES TAG

MASSACHUSETTS

French defender Jules Kounde has laughed off comments made by Spanish star Lamine Yamal regarding who holds the advantage at the World Cup. Yamal recently claimed that France should not be considered favourites over Spain, but Kounde insists the remarks do not bother him at all.

Both European giants have enjoyed excellent, unbeaten runs in the tournament so far to reach the Round of 16. France has looked incredibly dominant, easily defeating teams like Senegal, Iraq, Norway, and Sweden. Meanwhile, Spain bounced back from an opening draw against Cape Verde to secure consecutive wins over Saudi Arabia, Uruguay, and Austria.

Yamal, who plays alongside Kounde at Barcelona, previously stated that France cannot be considered better than Spain since the French team has not beaten them since the Euros. The teenager also argued that group stage form matters very little once the knockout rounds begin, stating that no single team stands clearly above the rest.

Responding to his club teammate, Kounde described Yamal as an ambitious, talented player who simply likes to speak his mind. He added that being labeled the tournament favourite means nothing on the pitch and that the comments actually made him smile.

Ndoye capitalizes on error to defeat Algeria

VANCOUVER

Switzerland cruised into the World Cup knockout stage with a dominant 2-0 victory over Algeria. This historic win marks the first time the Swiss team has progressed past the opening knockout round since 1938. They will now face either Colombia or Ghana right back here in Vancouver in their next match.

The Swiss team executed a perfect tactical plan created by Coach Murat Yakin. They struck early in the tenth minute when 20-year-old Johan Manzambi sprinted down the left wing and passed to Breel Embolo, who easily tapped the ball into the net. This early goal allowed Switzerland to change their formation, control the field, and completely choke Algeria's attacking play.

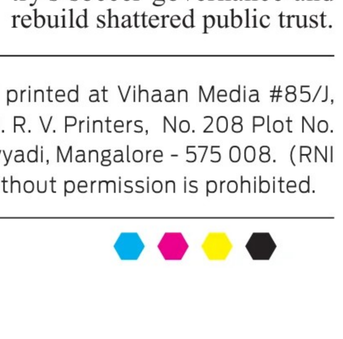
The Swiss doubled their lead immediately after halftime. Following a poor defensive clearance by Algeria, winger Dan Ndoye quickly grabbed the loose ball and smoothly guided his shot past goalkeeper Luca Zidane. Algeria tried to fight back, but Captain Riyad Mahrez missed a crucial chance by firing his shot straight into a defender.

With star player Granit Xhaka leading the defense, Switzerland easily kept control for the rest of the match. For Algeria, the defeat brought an extra wave of sadness. After the final whistle, their 35-year-old captain, Mahrez, emotionally announced his official retirement from international football. He stated that individual mistakes cost his team dearly, making this match his final appearance for the national squad.

Switzerland cruised into the World Cup knockout stage after defeating Algeria 2-0, forcing Riyad Mahrez into retirement

South Korea coach resigns amid World Cup loss

SEOUL



South Korea's early World Cup elimination has triggered a massive national scandal, leading to the head coach's resignation and demands for a government investigation. Despite boasting a "golden generation" of stars like Son Heung-min, the team failed to cross the group stage.

The immediate flashpoint occurred during a decisive 1-0 loss to South Africa, where coach Hong Myung-bo faced heavy criticism for benching star forward Son until halftime. However, public anger runs much deeper than bad tournament tactics. Fans are furious with the Korea Football Association (KFA) over a history of toxic management and shady hiring practices.

Hong's appointment in 2024 was highly controversial. The KFA allegedly abandoned a month-long search for international candidates to hire Hong after a single, informal meeting, violating its own procedural rules. This sparked public outrage, a tense parliamentary hearing, and an official sports ministry audit that exposed widespread organizational flaws.

Following the team's exit, President Lee Jae Myung expressed deep frustration online, blaming the failure on bad personnel decisions. He stated that favoritism and personal loyalty had been prioritized over actual competence, and ordered an immediate investigation into the KFA's management.

Stepping off the plane in Seoul, a dejected Hong took full responsibility and officially resigned while angry fans held up banners reading "South Korean football is dead." The political backlash is set to intensify next week as parliament holds special hearings to reform the country's soccer governance and rebuild shattered public trust.

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